

## Chapter 7

# PARK SYSTEM PLAN

### CHAPTER PURPOSE

The Park System outlines recreation and open space needs in Plymouth through the year 2040. The Park System is comprised of parks, trails, open spaces and facilities that are important community amenities that Plymouth residents highly value. Parks offer venues for a wide variety of outdoor/indoor activities that range from natural open spaces to park buildings to lighted playfields. Plymouth's recreation programs entertain, educate, teach and offer a multitude of leisure opportunities to residents, fostering a community that lives together and plays together. Therefore, it is important that the park system and recreation programs are prepared to meet future demands. These demands will be influenced by changing demographics, community growth and emerging trends.

Many different facilities and programs make up the Plymouth Park System. These facilities and programs are grouped as follows: parks; trails and sidewalks; natural areas and open space; recreation; and the Northwest Greenway (Table 7.1). Additional detail on each is included in the parks appendices (Appendix 7A, 7B and 7C).

### PARKS GOALS AND POLICIES

Provide a high-quality park and open space system that offers a balance of active and passive recreational opportunities.

- Continue to maintain and renovate the Park System.
- Build and maintain the Northwest Greenway.
- Acquire the land needed for new parks and trails by requiring dedication in new developments and by purchasing land for community-wide park needs.
- Add and enhance cultural resources and historic interpretive opportunities.
- Continue to include natural areas as a component of the Park System.
- Consider acquiring areas of unique, high-quality open space or natural resources that are not adequately protected by regulations.
- Establish regulations and incentives that will require or encourage private preservation of open space and natural resources.

- Prohibit private parks from serving as a substitute for any segment of the public park system.

Develop and maintain a trails and sidewalk system throughout the community to provide recreation opportunities and encourage non-motorized transportation.

- Provide trails and sidewalk connections among municipal and regional parks, neighborhoods and major activity centers.
- Provide trails and sidewalk connections to state, regional, county and adjoining community trail systems.
- Identify physical barriers to non-motorized access and provide connections across these barriers at key locations where feasible.
- Consider providing trails and sidewalks on both sides of streets when roadway traffic speed, volumes or other safety considerations warrant.
- Establish a functional hierarchy of trails and sidewalks relating to maintenance, jurisdiction and financing.
- Remove snow from designated trails and sidewalks based on defined City Council approved criteria.

Provide recreation programs and facilities that are well used, accessible and cost-effective.

- Monitor recreation trends and use patterns, and respond with appropriate programs and facilities.
- Continue to maintain and seek additional partnerships with school districts, athletic associations, contractors and other providers of recreational opportunities.
- Where there are opportunities for partnerships, act as a facilitator rather than the provider of new recreational facilities and programs.
- Assess user fees to offset operation and maintenance costs for public facilities when warranted.
- Continue to update and provide accessible programs, facilities, parks and trails.

## PARKS

Parks help accomplish a variety of City goals. These goals include preserving natural resources, linking trails/city sidewalks and offering recreational opportunities. Parks may be owned by the City or may exist as a cooperative agreement between the City and a school district or another governmental agency. The park system needs to grow with the community to ensure that both current and future residents continue to be adequately served.

All of the elements listed below should be considered as the City acquires and develops new parks and existing parks. Land for new parks should be acquired in excess of identified park needs in order to maintain reserve land for emerging and unanticipated future park needs.

*Recreational uses* are the primary focus of most parks.

*Ornamental elements* are often included in parks to increase park diversity and improve aesthetics. Examples include flower and native planting beds, trees, plazas, and ornamental lighting.

*Open Space* is an undeveloped park that is currently set aside as a natural environment for non-organized use.

*Reserve park land* is undesignated, City-owned park property. Reserve land provides space for parks that may be needed as the City responds to changing trends.

*Cultural elements* may include interpretation, structures or programs aimed at increasing awareness of local history and the arts.

## TYPES OF PARKS

The parks component of the Plymouth park system is defined by five broad categories of facilities – citywide, neighborhood, regional, quasi-public/private (Table 7.1) and the Northwest Greenway. The City currently has 79 park properties in its system (including school parks and special use facilities), totaling over 1,728.38 acres. There are five community parks (261.13 acres), ten natural areas and open space parcels (156.74 acres), 40 neighborhood and mini parks (500.84 acres), the Northwest Greenway (311.41 acres), ten playfields (239.48 acres), seven school parks (118.11 acres) and six special use parks and city facilities (140.69 acres). Specific facilities at each of these parks are identified in Appendix 7B. Figure 7-1 identifies the existing park facilities in Plymouth and Figure 7-2 identifies the Park System.

TABLE 7-1  
PARKS, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

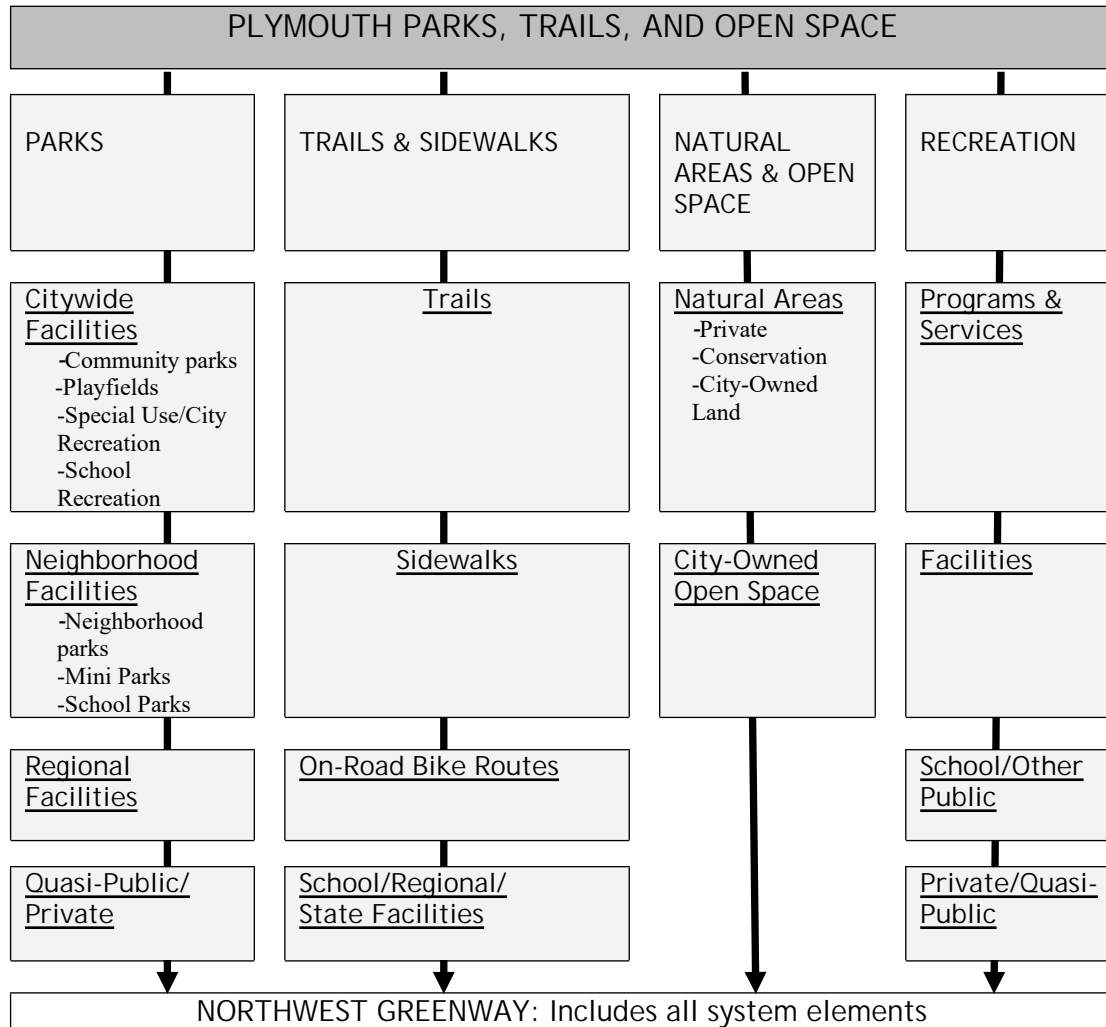


Table 7-2 shows the city-wide and neighborhood facilities and identifies the eight different types of parks within them.

TABLE 7-2  
TYPES OF CITY PARKS

Citywide Facilities—Serve the Entire Community		
Type	Size	Primary Focus
<b>Community Parks</b>	10+ acres	Passive and active recreation, events
<b>Playfield</b>	10+ acres	Organized recreation
<b>Special Use/City Recreation</b>	As needed	Specific use not found elsewhere in city
<b>School Recreational</b>		Organized recreation
Neighborhood Facilities—Serve ½ mile or less radius		
Type	Size	Primary Focus
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>	5-20 acres	Active informal play
<b>Mini Parks</b>	1-5 acres	Active informal play
<b>School Parks</b>	5-20 acres	Active informal play
Northwest Greenway-Serves the Entire Community		

### Citywide Facilities

**Community Parks:** A large park facility focused on natural amenities while providing unique amenities and/or experiences. When appropriate, community parks may serve a dual role as both a neighborhood and a community park. When this occurs, the facility will include the appropriate neighborhood amenities as described in Appendix 7A.

**Playfields:** A facility primarily serving organized recreation. Playfields may serve as neighborhood parks in some instances. In these cases, the amenities listed under “neighborhood parks” in Appendix 7A should be provided at the facility.

**Special Use/City Recreation:** A city facility with a unique focus not found elsewhere in the community (e.g. nature area, splash pad, an off-road biking facility, amphitheaters, disc golf facility or a skate park, Plymouth Ice Center, Fieldhouse, Plymouth Creek Center, and Bass Lake Park building).

**School Recreational:** Any school in Plymouth that is not considered a school park (defined below) is considered a school recreational facility. The City may use fields, gyms or other amenities at these facilities. All middle and high schools are considered school recreational facilities.

## Neighborhood Facilities

These facilities provide for park needs within a single service area based on a radius of one-half mile or less. Amenities will vary based on acreage and site conditions. Neighborhood park service areas are shown in Appendix 7A.

**Neighborhood Park:** Defined as a park that typically provides amenities such as play structures, green space, trails, and shelter within walking distance for nearby residents.

**Mini-Park:** Defined as a smaller version of a neighborhood park with reduced amenities. Mini-parks are provided in areas that are geographically isolated from other parks and/or available land that totals less than five acres.

**School Park:** Defined as a park in a service area that is not served by a City neighborhood park.

## Regional and Quasi Public/Private Facilities

These facilities are owned and operated by a private or other public organization. They provide the community additional recreational opportunities (e.g. regional facilities, fitness clubs and dance studios).

## Northwest Greenway

The Northwest Greenway (NWG) is an ecological and recreational trail corridor that connects open spaces, parks and trails, and preserves high quality ecosystems. The NWG includes all park system elements. Figure 7-5 shows the overall NWG.

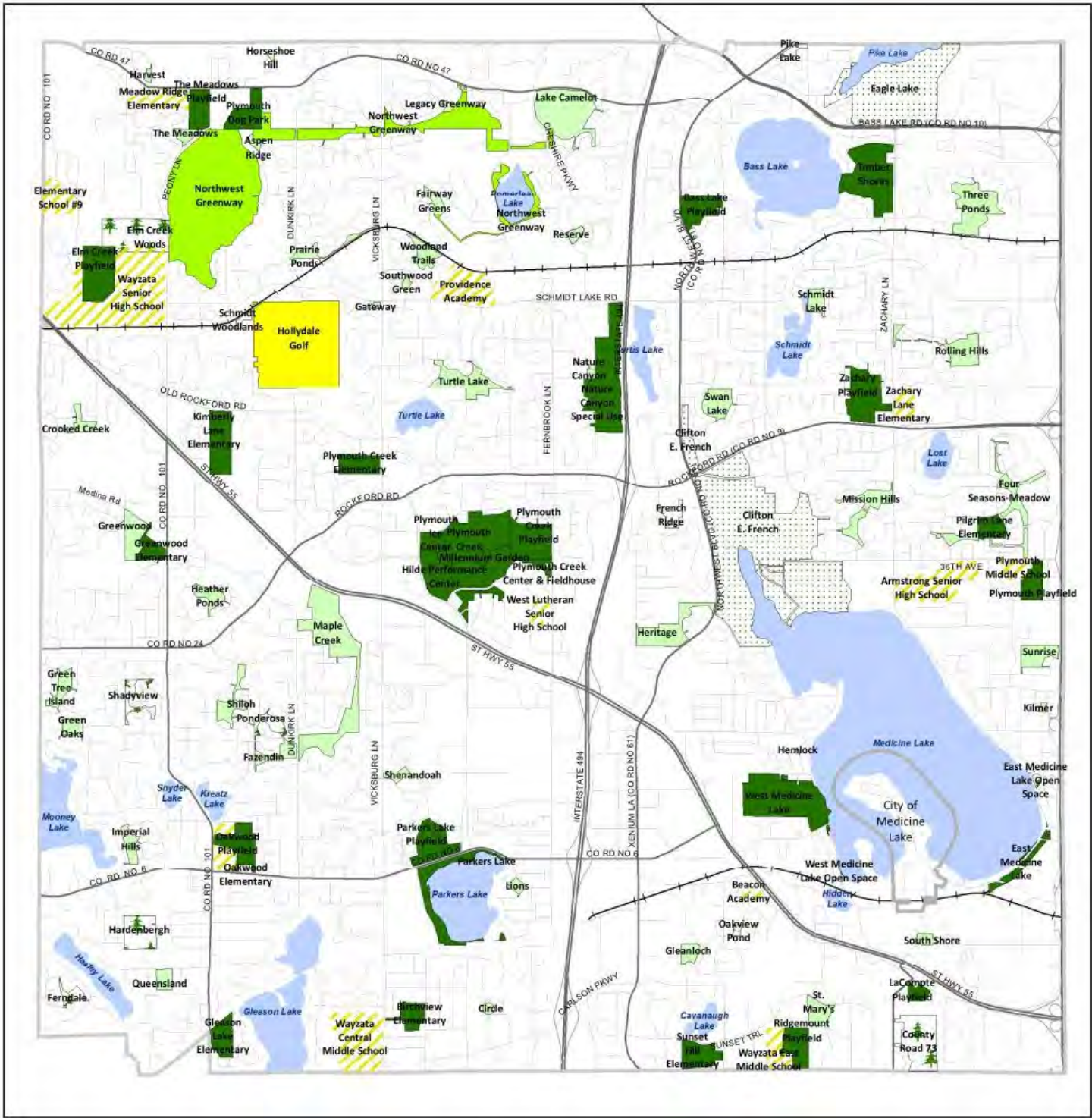


Figure 7-1

# Existing Parks & Open Space

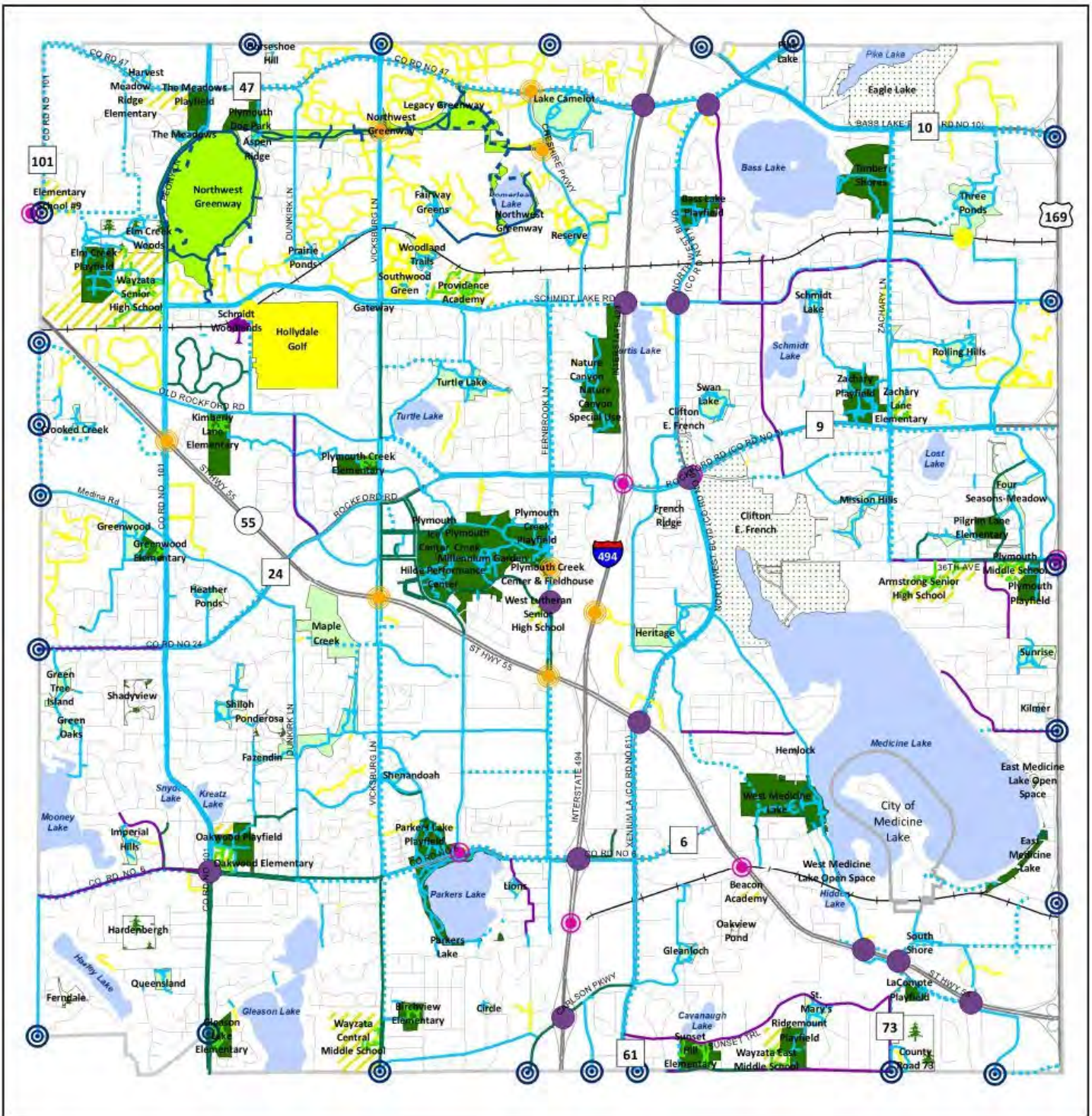
As of December 12, 2018

**Legend**

- Citywide Facilities
- Neighborhood Facilities
- Natural Areas & Open Space
- Northwest Greenway
- Regional Park
- School Recreational Facility
- Private Golf Course



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**Figure 7-2**

# Park & Trail Systems Plan

As of December 12, 2018



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## Legend

- |   |                        |                              |
|---|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Trail Connection to Adjacent Community      | City Trail             | Citywide Facilities          |
| Existing Grade-Separated Crossing           | City Sidewalk          | Neighborhood Facilities      |
| Proposed Grade-Separated Crossing           | NW Greenway            | Natural Areas & Open Space   |
| Proposed Crossing Improvement               | School Trail           | Northwest Greenway           |
| Proposed At-Grade Railroad Crossing         | On-Road Bike Route     | Regional Park                |
| Proposed Neighborhood or Mini Park Location | Private Roadside       | School Recreational Facility |
|   | Proposed City Trail    | Private Golf Course          |
|   | Proposed City Sidewalk |                              |
|   | Proposed NW Greenway   |                              |





## PARK FACILITIES NEEDS

To assess needs for citywide and neighborhood-based park facilities, the City uses several different analysis methods. The need for citywide facilities is based on population, demographics, participation rates and trends. The need for neighborhood facilities is based on park service area and location (Figure 7A-1). The need for Northwest Greenway property and/or amenities are defined as part of the master plan based on participation, usage and trends.

### Citywide Facilities Needs Analysis

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) draws upon the Park Metrics database to help agencies apply a set of national comparative benchmarking standards. Park Metrics is the most comprehensive source of data standards and insights for parks and recreation agencies across the country. A benchmarking standard for park service is the amount of developed park land available per 1,000 residents. This is an estimate based upon reporting agency data.

The 2018 NRPA community standard is 17.4 acres of developed park land per 1,000 people for the upper quartile (highest 25 percent) for communities with a population of 50,000 to 99,999. The median NRPA community standard is 10.1 acres of developed park land per 1,000 residents for agencies of all sizes. The City's estimated 2016 population according to the Metropolitan Council was 75,452 with a total of 1,571.64 acres of developed park land. Based on Plymouth's 2016 population, the city has 20.82 acres of developed park land per 1,000 people. In 2040, the Metropolitan Council has estimated the population to reach 85,100. Based on this population estimate and additional future park acquisitions, Plymouth will have 18.47 acres of park land per 1,000 people.

### Citywide Facility Needs

In the years to come, the City will examine, evaluate and develop land and facilities based on trends, forecasts, participation and community needs.

The City commissioned a Comprehensive Plan Technical Review (CPTR) in 2009 of undeveloped park land, future land acquisition needs and redevelopment of existing facilities. In 2016, the CPTR was reviewed and updated. This report is located in Appendix 7C and provides concept plans and illustrations for enhancements.

## Community Parks

The final community park, The Meadows, located in the northwest corner of Plymouth, will be developed in the near future. The current community parks will continue to be maintained and evaluated for possible repurposing in the future based on current trends.

## Playfields

The need for playfields and/or redevelopment of these facilities is primarily based on program use, participation rates and trends. To adequately accommodate playfield activities in the future, the City will continue to monitor usage.

There are five types of facilities (detailed descriptions are provided in Appendix 7A) that are used for organized sports: ball fields; multi-use fields (soccer, football, lacrosse, cricket and rugby); sand volleyball courts; gyms; and hockey rinks.

## Special Use/City Recreation Facilities

Special use/city recreation facilities (additional information provided in Appendix 7A) are unique recreational amenities not included in a typical park. They are intended to increase the recreational diversity of Plymouth's park system. Table 7-3 identifies possible facilities that may be provided as part of an existing park or as a stand-alone facility.

TABLE 7-3

Facility Type	Potential Provider
Town Team Ballfield	City of Plymouth/Private Provider
Adult Playground	City of Plymouth
Indoor Playground	City of Plymouth/Private Provider
Indoor Active Space/Gym	City of Plymouth
Outdoor Pool/Water Park	City of Plymouth/Private Provider
Art/Sculpture Park	City of Plymouth/Non-profit Arts Group
Environmental Park	City of Plymouth/Non-profit Stewardship Group
BMX Park	City of Plymouth/Non-profit Group
Off-Road Bike Trail	City of Plymouth/Non-profit Group
Spray Park/Splash Pad	City of Plymouth

## Neighborhood Park Facilities

The need for neighborhood parks is primarily based on geography and assumes a desired walking distance of approximately a one-half mile radius. A park service area is a small geographic area that, to

the extent feasible, is free from barriers such as major roadways and major bodies of water. Convenient and safe non-motorized access should be available to the park facility within the service area.

As residential development continues in northwest Plymouth, the City will acquire land and develop three to four additional neighborhood/mini-parks. Recommended sites for new park facilities are identified on Figure 7-2. Detailed analysis on each park service area and park enhancements is provided in Appendix 7A.

## TRAILS AND SIDEWALKS

Plymouth's current trail and sidewalk system is an established network of more than 171 miles of city, regional and state trails and sidewalks that connect most neighborhoods to parks, schools, transit and commercial areas. A multi-use trail system is a key amenity to the community because it provides for healthy, non-motorized transportation such as walking, jogging and bicycling. Trails also contribute to the community's overall transportation system.

Elements of the trail and sidewalk system that function to move pedestrians and bicyclists between key community and inter-community destinations are included in the Transportation Plan (Chapter 6). Figure 7-3 identifies Plymouth's existing system, which includes both public and private trails and sidewalks. Trails and sidewalks may be constructed by a public agency or required as part of a new development or redevelopment of private property. The private trails and sidewalks are maintained by property owners or associations.

The Trail and Sidewalk Plan will help Plymouth continue to effectively implement a high-quality, multi-use trail system. It provides a framework for future connectivity to serve the transportation and recreation needs of the community.

## TYPES OF TRAILS AND SIDEWALKS

There are four types of trails in the Trail and Sidewalk Plan. The design standards are provided in Appendix 7A.

**Trail** – Off-road, multi-modal, non-motorized surface that is eight- to 12-feet wide. The surfaces may include, but are not limited to asphalt, concrete, crushed aggregate, or mulch, depending on the type of trail (independent, nature, boulevard or roadside).

**Sidewalk** – Off-road, multi-modal, non-motorized surface that is five-feet wide. The surface is usually concrete. Public sidewalks are located on public property or within public rights-of-way and easements. Private sidewalks are located on private property.

**On-Road Bike Route** –Striped and/or signed bikeways on an existing road. All existing and planned on-road bike routes are included in the Trail and Sidewalk Plan.

**School/Regional/State Facilities** – Trails and sidewalks owned by other public entities.

## PRINCIPAL TRAIL CORRIDORS IN PLYMOUTH

Several regional and city trails serve as the backbone of the trail system. They create an integrated system that connects neighborhoods, parks, schools, transit and commercial areas. Some of these corridors offer long distance recreation opportunities; others serve both recreation and transportation opportunities that are reflected in the Transportation Plan. The following is a list of the principal corridors and planned extensions.

**County Road 9 (Rockford Road)/County Road 24** – An east-west corridor that connects most of the commercial uses in the city and is one of the highest volume roadways in Plymouth. A pedestrian bridge is located at the I-494 crossing. The corridor is continuous through most of the commercial area, but lacks trail and sidewalk connection across Highway 169 to the City of New Hope on the eastern side of the city.

**County Road 61 (Northwest Boulevard/Xenium Lane)** – A major north-south corridor connecting neighborhoods with commercial/industrial employment centers south of Highway 55. A gap exists in this trail at Highway 55 and 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The trail does not have a grade-separated crossing at Highway 55.

**County Road 101/Peony Lane/Lawndale Lane** – An important north-south route through the western portion of the city. The trail does not have a grade-separated crossing at Highway 55.

**Luce Line Trail** – An off-road trail that runs through the southern portion of Plymouth. The regional facility is operated by Three Rivers Park District heading east from Vicksburg Lane and connects with the regional trail system in Minneapolis. The Department of Natural Resources operates the facility heading west from Vicksburg Lane to Hutchinson.

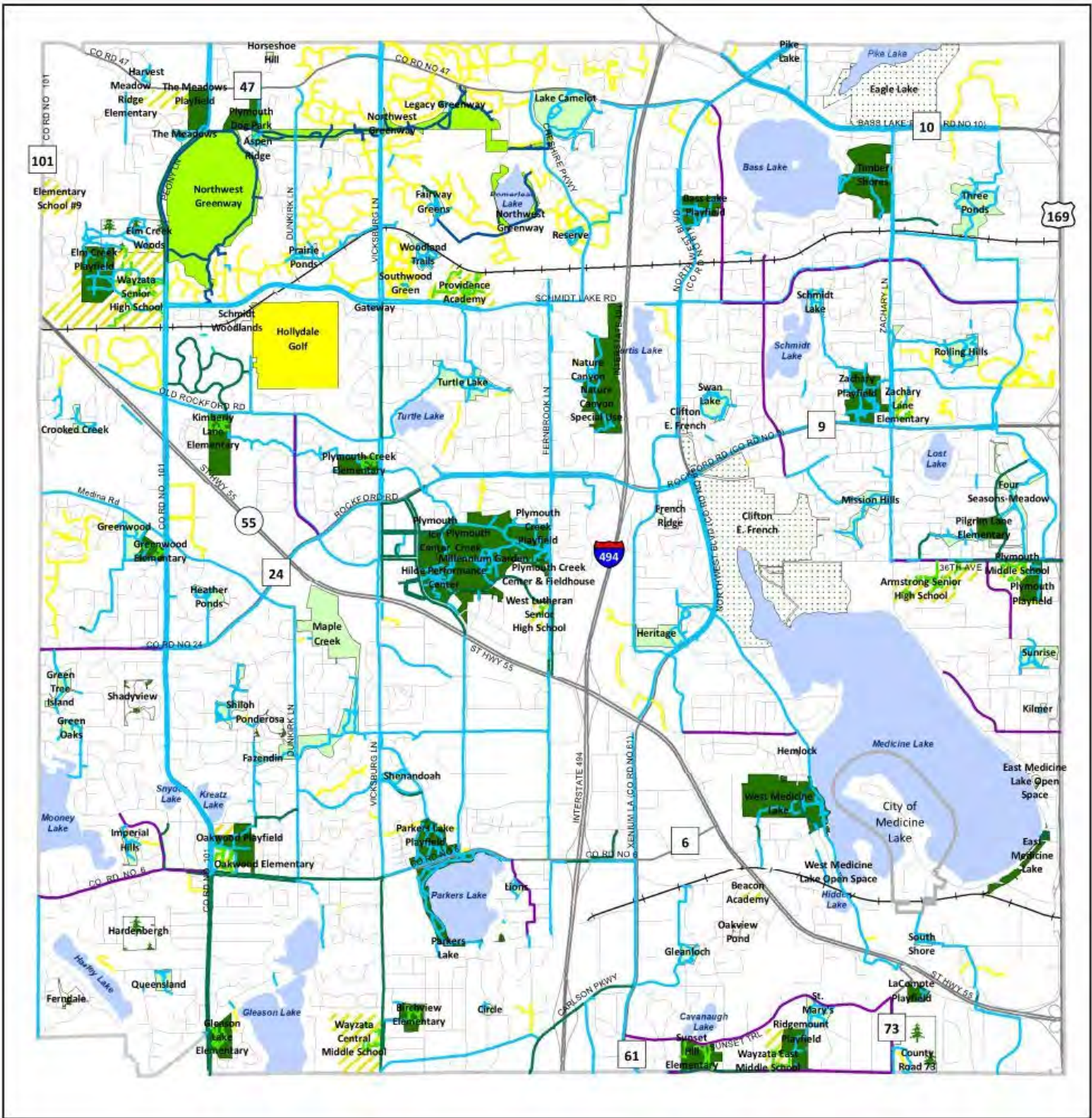


Figure 7-3

# Existing Trails & Sidewalks

As of December 12, 2018

### Legend

- City Trail
- City Sidewalk
- NW Greenway
- School Trail
- On-Road Bike Route
- Private Roadside
- Citywide Facilities
- Neighborhood Facilities
- Natural Areas & Open Space
- Northwest Greenway
- Regional Park
- School Recreational Facility
- Private Golf Course



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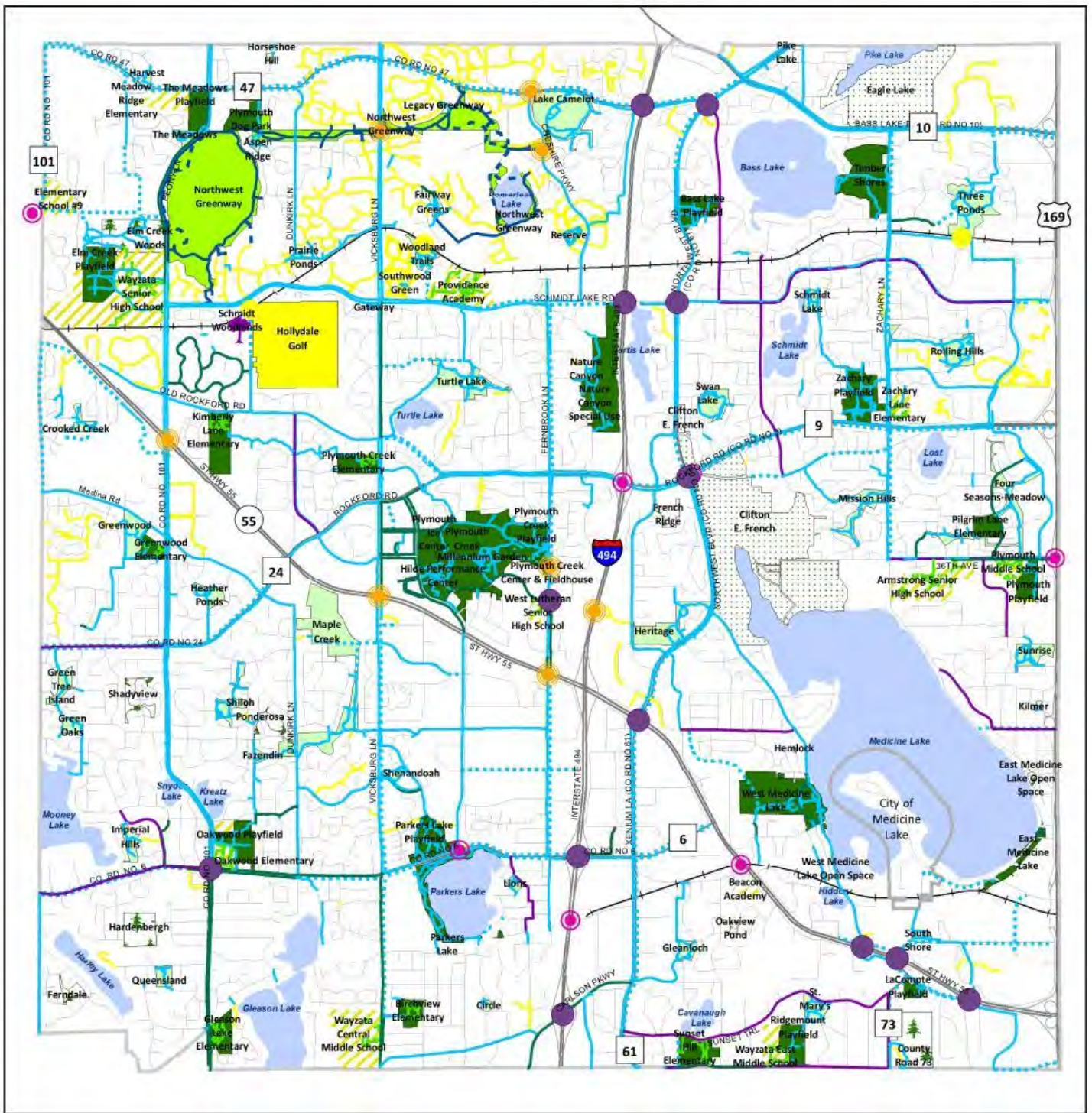


Figure 7-4

# City Trail & Sidewalk Plan

As of December 12, 2018

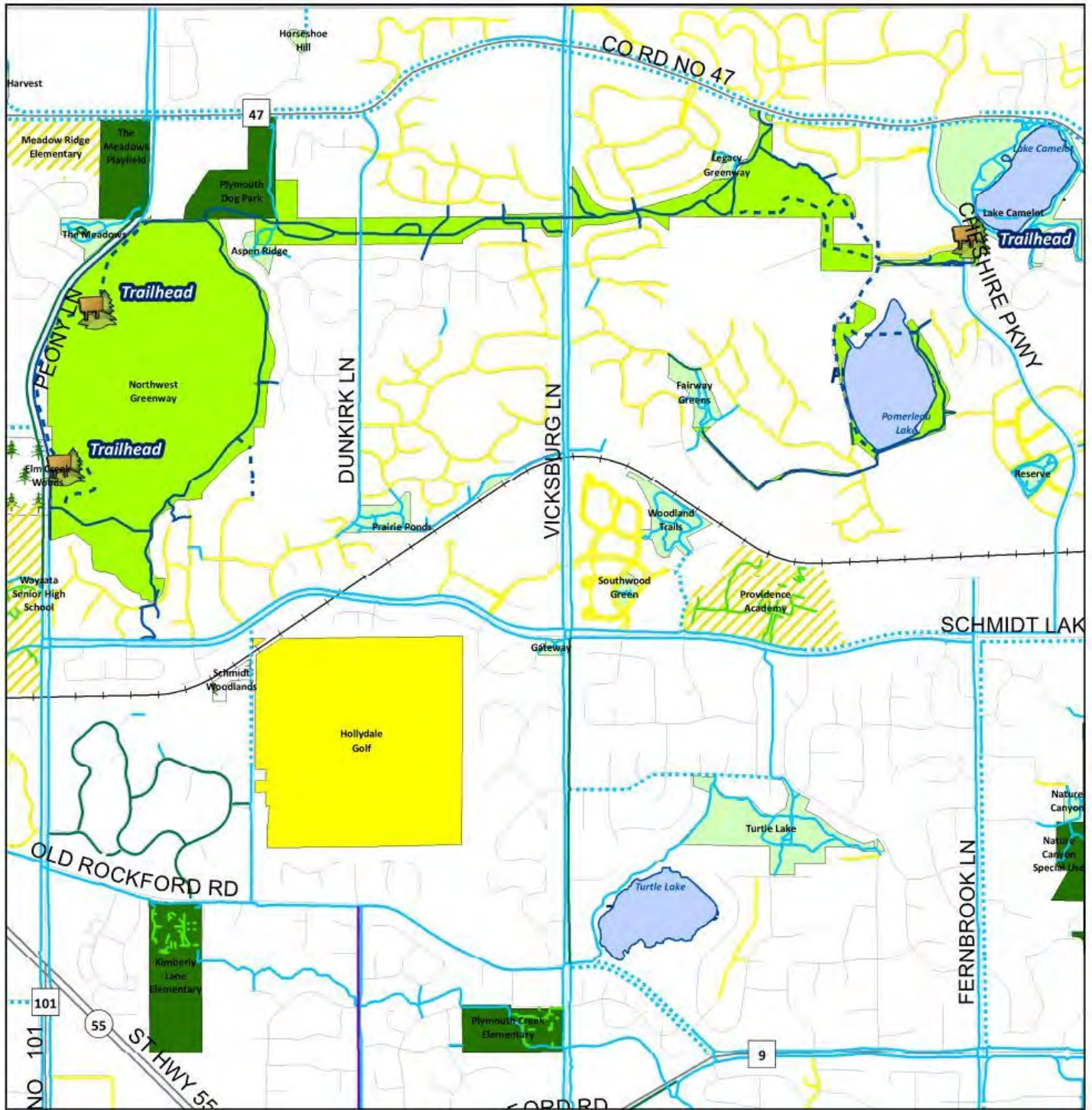


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### Legend

- Existing Grade-Separated Crossing
- Proposed Grade-Separated Crossing
- Proposed Crossing Improvement
- Proposed At-Grade Railroad Crossing
- Proposed Neighborhood or Mini Park Location
- City Trail
- City Sidewalk
- NW Greenway
- School Trail
- On-Road Bike Route
- Private Roadside
- Proposed City Trail
- Proposed City Sidewalk
- Proposed NW Greenway
- Citywide Facilities
- Neighborhood Facilities
- Natural Areas & Open Space
- Northwest Greenway
- Regional Park
- School Recreational Facility
- Private Golf Course





**Figure 7-5**

# Northwest Greenway

As of December 12, 2018



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## Legend

- Trailhead
- Proposed City Trail
- Proposed City Sidewalk
- Proposed NW Greenway
- Citywide Facilities
- Neighborhood Facilities
- Natural Areas & Open Space
- Northwest Greenway
- Regional Park
- School Recreational Facility
- Private Golf Course
- City Trail
- City Sidewalk
- NW Greenway
- School Trail
- On-Road Bike Route
- Private Roadside



**Medicine Lake Regional Trail** – Begins at its connection with the Luce Line Regional Trail at the southeast corner of Medicine Lake. The trail follows the eastern side of Medicine Lake and travels through Clifton E. French Regional Park to Fish Lake Regional Park and Elm Creek Park Reserve in Maple Grove. This trail also connects to the Northwest Greenway.

**Northwest Greenway (NWG)** - an ecological, long-distance recreational trail corridor that connects parks, neighborhoods and community while preserving open spaces and high-quality ecosystems for wildlife. The NWG provides a significant amenity for existing and future residents of Plymouth. Figure 7-5 shows the overall plan of the NWG.

The NWG stretches from Wayzata High School and the Elm Creek Playfield eastward to Lake Camelot Park and the Medicine Lake Regional Trail, which in turn connects to Elm Creek Park Reserve in Maple Grove. It includes grade-separated crossings of Cheshire Parkway and Vicksburg Lane.

The NWG corridor varies in width surrounded by urban forest or grassland buffers. Right-of-way for the greenway corridor is secured through acquisition, dedication or easement. Additional updates to the NWG may include:

- **Additional Greenway Width** – If feasible, undeveloped property west of Juneau Lane and south of the existing NWG trail alignment may be acquired to widen the corridor and preserve the wooded hillside.
- **Juneau Lane Connection** – The NWG requires a connection to the existing trail alignment on the east side of Juneau Lane running parallel to 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The city will work with current property owner(s) or future developments to acquire land for the connection.
- **Trailhead Locations** – Three trailhead connections are proposed along the greenway. Two trailheads will be located on the east side of Peony Lane abutting the Elm Creek wetland. The third trailhead is located on Cheshire Parkway.
- **Plymouth Creek Trail** – This trail will connect West Medicine Lake Regional Trail and West Medicine Lake Park with Elm Creek Playfield. The trail will pass through two parks, a community playfield, two elementary schools, City Center and several residential neighborhoods. It will also connect with existing and proposed trails along County Road 61 (Northwest Boulevard), Fernbrook Lane, County Road 9 (Rockford Road), Vicksburg Lane and Peony Lane. This trail is about 75 percent complete with several remaining gaps. For



most of its length, the Plymouth Creek Trail is an independent trail with grade-separated crossings of major roadways.

- **Vicksburg Lane Trail** – A major north-south corridor connecting neighborhoods to City Center. Improvement to the Highway 55 crossing is important for the safety of pedestrians.

## TRAIL AND SIDEWALK CONNECTIONS

Plymouth's Trail and Sidewalk Plan is complemented by a variety of additional trail corridors. State and regional trails along with Hennepin County's *2040 Bicycle Transportation Plan* elements are all present within the city. In addition, many adjacent communities have trails that connect or could connect to Plymouth's trails and sidewalks. Understanding and linking to state, regional, and neighboring community trails will increase the recreational and transportation opportunities Plymouth can offer its residents.

### Three Rivers Park District

Three Rivers Park District has a comprehensive trail plan that will link west metro parks, commercial centers and communities. These trails are used for both recreation and transportation. Figure 7-6 identifies the Regional Trails Plan as it relates to Plymouth.

- **Luce Line Regional Trail** begins at Vicksburg Lane and runs eastward to Highway 169. The trail continues east through Golden Valley and connects to Wirth Parkway in Minneapolis. The trail provides grade-separated crossings of I-494, Xenium Lane and Highway 55. Highlights of the trail include two 900-foot boardwalks through the wetlands immediately south of Medicine Lake, and the ability to complete a loop around Medicine Lake using Park District and city trails. The Luce Line State Trail, operated and maintained by the Minnesota DNR, is an extension of the regional trail that runs west from Vicksburg Lane in Plymouth to Hutchinson.
- **Medicine Lake Regional Trail** begins its connection with the Luce Line Regional Trail at the southeast corner of Medicine Lake. The trail follows the eastern side of Medicine Lake and travels through Clifton E. French Regional Park. From French Park, the trail follows Northwest Boulevard to Schmidt Lake Road, where it heads west and goes under I-494. The trail then heads north along Cheshire Parkway and connects on the north side of County 47 and continues to Fish Lake Regional Park and Elm Creek Park Reserve. This regional trail connects to the Northwest Greenway at Cheshire Parkway and 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

- **Bassett Creek Regional Trail** begins in Clifton E. French Regional Park and runs east along 36th Avenue. A pedestrian bridge over Highway 169 connects Plymouth to New Hope. When completed, the regional trail will travel through Crystal and Golden Valley, connecting to Wirth Parkway in Minneapolis.

The Regional Parks Policy Plan identifies regional trail search corridors that will be planned and developed in the future by Three Rivers Park District. Figure 7-6 identifies the regional search corridors.

- **Eagle Lake-Bassett Creek Regional Trail Search Corridor** travels through Plymouth and New Hope as it connects Eagle Lake Regional Park and Bassett Creek Regional Trail.
- **Lake Sarah Extension Regional Trail Search Corridor** was added to the Regional Parks System as part of the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*. The search corridor travels through Medina and Plymouth as it extends the Lake Sarah Regional Trail Search Corridor east to connect Baker Park Reserve to Medicine Lake Regional Trail.
- **North-South 2 Regional Trail Search Corridor** was also added to the Regional Parks System as part of the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*. The search corridor travels through Plymouth, Minnetonka and Eden Prairie as it connects Medicine Lake Regional Trail, French Regional Park, Luce Line Regional Trail, Lake Minnetonka LRT Regional Trail, Minnesota River Bluffs LRT Regional Trail, Bryant Lake Regional Park and County Road 61 Regional Trail Search Corridor in Chanhassen.

## Hennepin County 2040 Bicycle Transportation Plan

The County bicycle plan was published in 2015. It provides design guidelines for on- and off-road trails, suggests crossing improvements and shows a plan for the County's ultimate bicycle transportation system. Figure 7-7 identifies the plan as it relates to Plymouth and adjacent communities.

## Trail and Sidewalks in Adjacent Communities

Communities adjacent to Plymouth are also implementing trail plans. Connecting to neighboring systems will allow access to additional commercial, recreational and employment opportunities for Plymouth residents. Current and proposed trail connections are identified on Figure 7-4.

- The City of Medicine Lake connects to Plymouth on South Shore Drive.

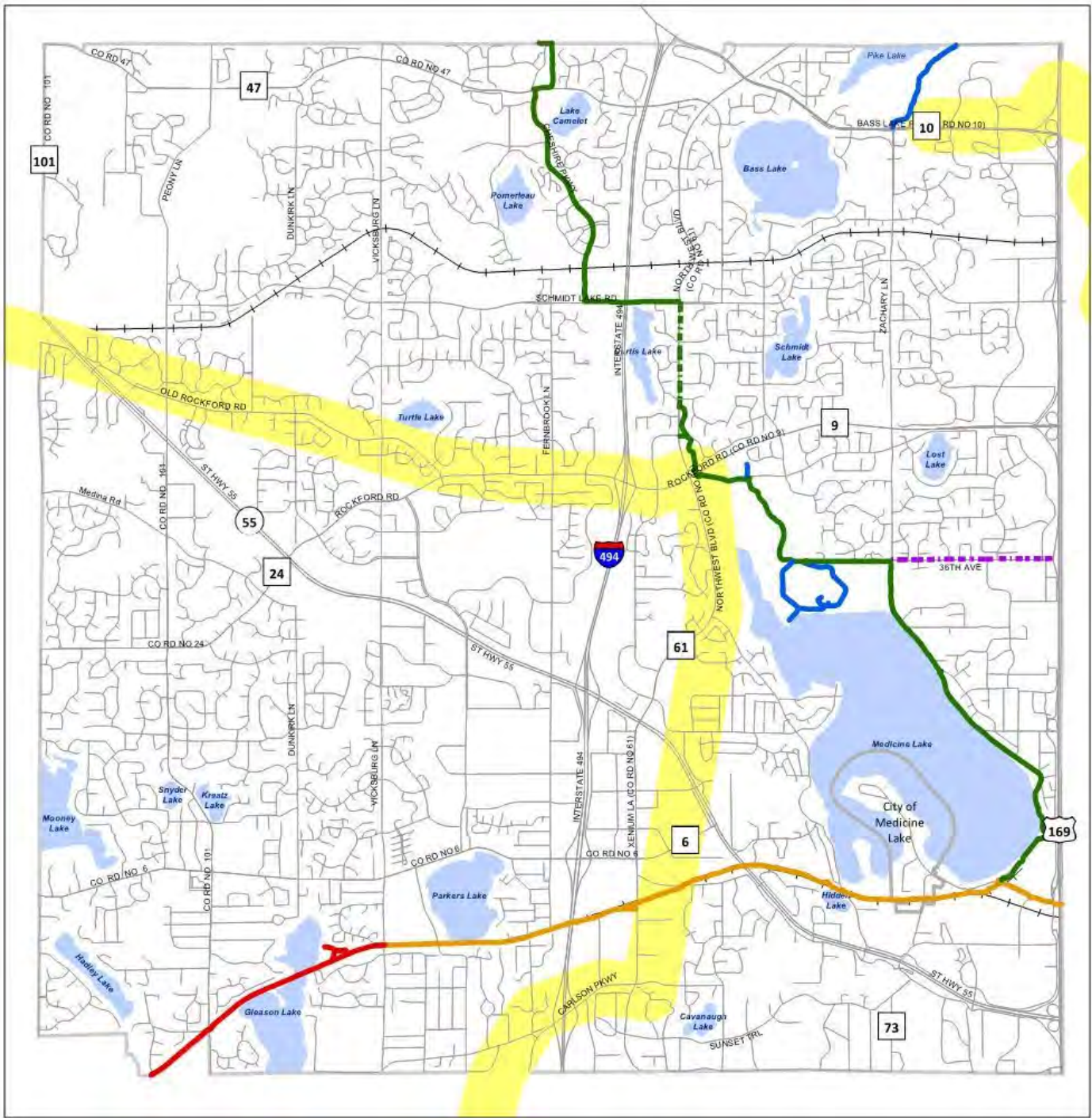


Figure 7-6

# Regional Trails Plan

**Legend**

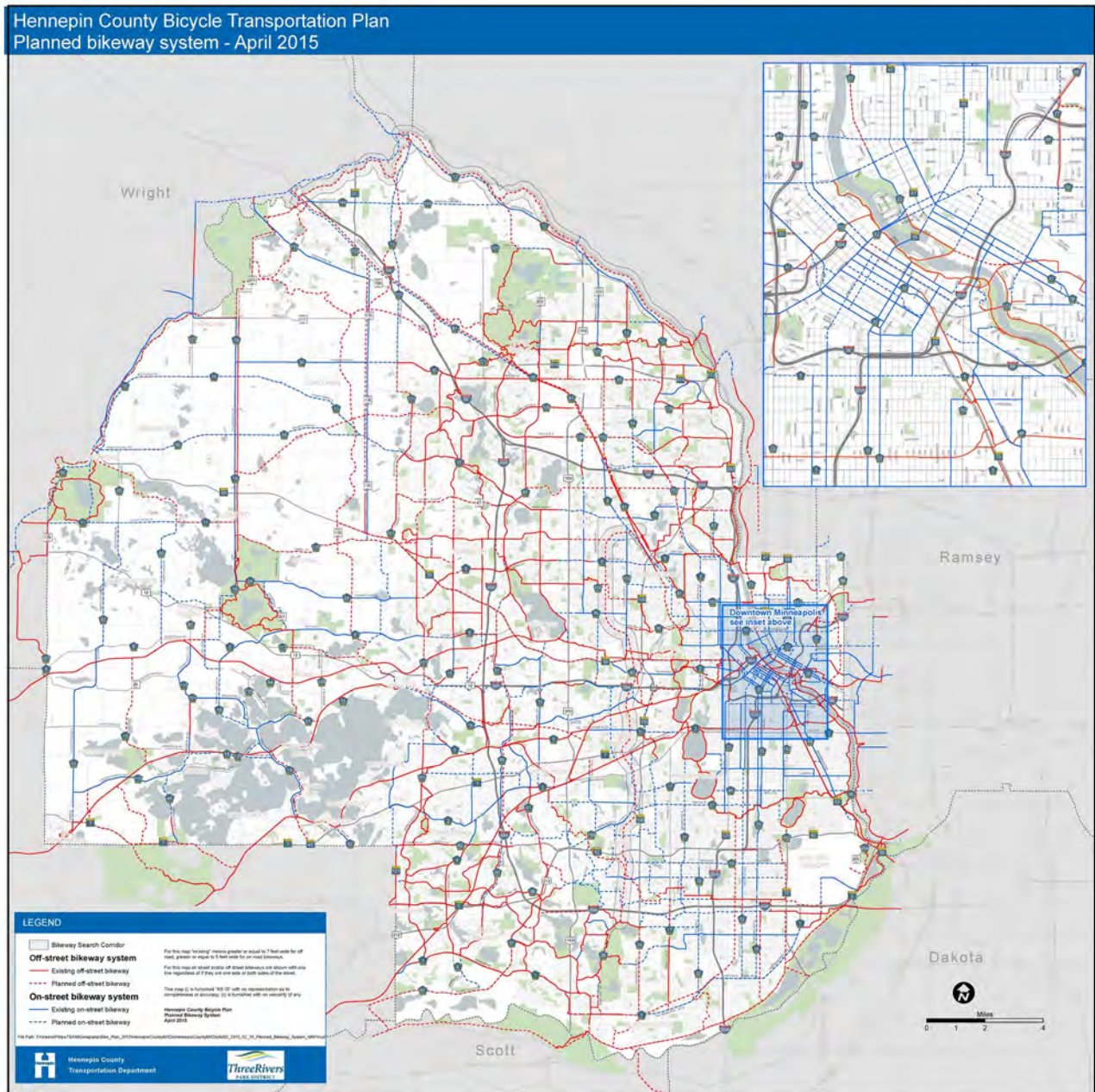
- Medicine Lake Regional Trail
- Regional Park Trail
- Luce Line Regional Trail
- Luce Line State Trail
- Proposed Bassett Creek Regional Trail
- Proposed Medicine Lake Regional Trail
- Regional Trail Search Corridor



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- Corcoran and Medina connect to Plymouth at County Road 47, which turns into Hackamore Road.
- Golden Valley has proposed trail connections into the city at 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The City currently has a connection into Golden Valley via the Luce Line Regional Trail at 13<sup>th</sup>

FIGURE 7-7  
HENNEPIN COUNTY BICYCLE PLAN



Source: Hennepin County Bicycle Transportation Plan

- Avenue. An additional trail connection at Betty Crocker Drive/Shelard Parkway should be considered for future improvement.
- Maple Grove connects to Plymouth by the Medicine Lake Regional Trail. Plymouth also provides connection into Maple Grove along multiple roadways including Hemlock Lane, Quinwood Lane, County Road 61 ( Northwest Boulevard), County Road 10 (Bass Lake Road), Ithaca Lane, Vicksburg Lane, Lawndale Lane (Peony Lane), Vagabond Lane and County Road 101.
- Medina’s parks, trails and open space plan shows proposed trails running into Plymouth just north of Wayzata High School. A grade-separated crossing at County Road 101 has been built. Additional trail connections include Evergreen Road, Hamel Road, Medina Road and County Road 24.
- Minnetonka has connections into Plymouth on Carlson Parkway (Gleason Lake Road), Cheshire Lane, County Road 61 (Xenium Lane), Ridgemount Avenue and County Road 73 (Zachary Lane).
- New Hope has connections into Plymouth at Schmidt Lake Road and at County Road 10 (Bass Lake Road) over Highway 169. The City currently has a connection into New Hope via the Bassett Creek Regional Trail pedestrian bridge over Highway 169 on 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Schmidt Lake Road.
- Orono connects to Plymouth at County Road 6.
- St. Louis Park has connections into Plymouth along Shelard Parkway that connects to Nathan Lane in Plymouth.
- Wayzata has connections to Plymouth at Ferndale Road, County Road 101, Gleason Lake Road (County Road 15) and the Luce Line State Trail.

## TRAIL AND SIDEWALK NEEDS

A major goal of the Trail and Sidewalk Plan is to improve and increase use of trails and sidewalks by adding new connections and by filling gaps within the network. This will provide more trail and sidewalk

opportunities along with better access to schools, parks, transit facilities and other destinations. The proposed city trails, sidewalks and on-road bicycle facilities are shown on Figure 7-4. The criteria used to select proposed trail segments include the following.

**Corridor Gap Closures** – Some established linear routes are not connected along their entire length. These gaps should be filled in order to offer a continuous transportation or recreation opportunity.

**Extensions** – Some existing trails and sidewalks may be extended to connect to a point of interest not currently served.

**Connections Between Corridors** – Where feasible, corridors should be connected together.

**New Corridors** – New corridors are proposed, primarily in northwest Plymouth.

#### INFORMAL RAILROAD CROSSINGS

There are several at-grade trail crossings of railroad corridors in the Plymouth trail system that should be provided for effective and safe trail/park connections. Many of these sites already have existing informal trail crossings. To improve safety, a “pedestrian maze,” should be considered at Holly Lane (Schmidt Woodlands Park), Woodland Trails Park and Three Ponds Park (see Appendix 7C). This is an acceptable concept with the railroad companies. Because these crossings are in residential areas, “no horn zones” should be required.

#### IMPLEMENTATION

##### *Description*

##### *Timing*

**Maintain the Parks and Trail System** – Maintain the quality of the existing parks and trail system and fund the replacement of buildings, trails and playgrounds through the Park Replacement Fund. Determine priorities and plan for short-term funding needs through the annual review of the Capital Improvements Program (CIP).

Ongoing

**Develop The Meadows Community Park** – Develop the park as trends and needs dictate and funds become available.

Medium

*Description*

*Timing*

**Organized Sports Facilities** – Monitor and respond to the need for ball fields, multi-use fields (soccer, football, lacrosse, cricket and rugby), sand volleyball courts, outdoor hockey and gyms.

Ongoing

**Outdoor Hockey/Figure Skating** – Continue to maintain and update outdoor rinks to focus on providing quality ice facilities. Additional modifications may include:

Short

- Installing ¾ size rinks;
- Adding sunscreens over the rinks; and
- Adding new dasher boards.

**Develop Nature Canyon Park** – Develop this special use recreation facility as a blended site that combines both active and passive uses. Consider looking for possible development partnerships.

Medium

**Special Recreation Facilities** – Consider providing special recreation facilities such as an art park, environmental park and bike park, in response to demonstrated need.

Ongoing

**Plymouth Creek Center Renovation and Expansion** – Renovate and expand the facility to keep current with trends, and to meet community needs for recreation programming, community gathering and rental space.

Short  
/Medium

**Park and Recreation Facility Renovations** – As the park system continues to age, consider making improvements, renovations and updates to existing park buildings and facilities to meet current trends and community needs, and to ensure appropriate programming and gathering space. Park buildings and facilities include:

Ongoing

- Plymouth Creek Park
- LaCompte Playfield
- Zachary Playfield
- Bass Lake Playfield
- Oakwood Playfield
- Parkers Lake Park

**Neighborhood Park Improvements** – Implement improvements within each park service area according to Table 7A-5 in Appendix 7A.

Varies by  
service area

*Description*

*Timing*

**Trail Gaps, Connections and Crossings** – Continue to improve the recreational use of the trail system by considering:

Ongoing

- Making corridor gap closures, trail extensions and connections that will provide better access to schools, parks, neighboring communities, transit facilities and other destinations;
- Providing trails on both sides of designated high volume roadways; and
- Providing safe roadway crossings of major community obstacles and/or barriers in the trail system as designated in the plan.

**Trail Railroad Crossings** – Consider providing safe at-grade trail crossings of the following railroad corridors in the trail system:

Medium

- Holly Lane;
- Quantico Lane; and
- Three Ponds Park.

**Northwest Greenway** – Continue acquisition and development of the ecological and recreational trail corridor:

Short/  
Medium

- Secure the last few land parcels.
- Develop trail corridor connections from Cheshire Parkway to Legacy Greenway Park and around Lake Pomerleau.
- Develop the south trailhead on Peony Lane to incorporate a large three-season picnic facility with restrooms, space for event staging, playground, trails and parking.
- Develop the north trailhead on Peony Lane to incorporate a year-round building, a wetland viewing area, open space for events, trails and parking.

**Natural Area Protection** – Continue to protect natural areas through:

Ongoing

- Management of conservation areas within parks; and
- City regulation of shoreland, floodplain and wetlands.

**Management of City-owned Open Space** – Update and follow the management plan for each existing and future City-owned open space parcel.

Ongoing



*Description*

*Timing*

**Recreation Programs** – Continue to provide a broad range of recreation programs that meet the needs of all age groups, from pre-school to seniors, in a cost effective manner. Emphasize the commitment to health, wellness and fitness.

Ongoing

**Special Events** – Continue to sponsor or co-sponsor special community events to provide a common ground for celebration and development of community pride.

Ongoing

**Collaboration** – Continue to work with other public, private and non-profit groups and agencies, local units of government and school districts to enhance the City’s limited resources and the array of programs available to residents.

Ongoing

**Volunteers** – Continue to use volunteers to help stretch taxpayer dollars.

Ongoing

**Historic Preservation** – Identify historic landmarks in the city and work to preserve and promote them.

Ongoing

## Appendix 7A

# PARKS, TRAILS, OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PROGRAM DETAILS

## PARKS

### TYPES OF PARKS

The parks component of the system is defined by four broad categories – citywide facilities, neighborhood facilities, regional and quasi-public/private facilities and Northwest Greenway. The categories of citywide and neighborhood facilities consist of seven different types of parks. Criteria and guidelines for each type of park facility are provided in Table 7A-1.

### Citywide Facilities

Community parks, playfields, special use/city and school recreational facilities provide for citywide park amenities that serve the entire community.

### Neighborhood Facilities

Neighborhood, mini and school park facilities provide for park needs within a single service area based on a radius of one-half mile or less. Neighborhood park service areas are shown on Figure 7A-1.

### Regional and Quasi Public/Private Facilities

These facilities are owned and operated by a private or other public organization to provide the community additional recreational opportunities.

### Northwest Greenway

The Northwest Greenway (NWG) is an ecological and recreational trail corridor that connects open spaces, parks and trails, and preserves high quality ecosystems. Figure 7-5 shows the overall NWG.

**TABLE 7A-1  
DESCRIPTION OF PARK TYPES**

Park Type	Area Served	Park Size	Focus	Primary Access	Ownership/ Management	Types of Amenities		Support Facilities
						*Active	*Passive	
<b>City-Wide Facilities</b>								
Community	Entire City	20+ acres	Passive and active recreation, natural resources	Bike, walk, car, transit	Entirely owned and maintained by City	e.g. Playground structure, sport fields, beach/swimming area, hard surface courts	e.g. Trails, picnicking, fishing, natural habitat	General purpose building with restroom, off-street parking, other as required
Playfield	Entire City	20-65 acres	Organized recreation	Bike, walk, car, transit	Entirely maintained by City; some leased from School Districts	e.g. Playground structure, sport fields, hard surface courts, rinks	e.g. Trails, natural habitat, spectator seating	Off-street parking, concession restroom structure, other as required
Special Use	Entire City	As needed	Specific use not found elsewhere in City	Bike, walk, car, transit	Entirely owned and maintained by City	e.g. Skate board park, disc golf	e.g. Trails, natural habitat, dog park, garden, amphitheater	Off-street parking, concession restroom structure, other as required
City Recreation Facility	Entire City	As needed	Organized recreation	Bike, walk, car, transit	Entirely owned and maintained by City	e.g. Sport field, ice rinks, fitness space	e.g. Meeting, class and conference rooms	Off-street parking, concession restroom structure, other as required
School Recreation Facility	Entire City	As needed	Organized recreation	Bike, walk, car, transit	Owned and maintained by the School – may be programmed by city	e.g. Sports field, play structure, hard surface courts, ice rinks	e.g. Trails, natural habitat, spectator seating	Off-street parking, concession restroom structure, other as required
<b>Neighborhood Facilities</b>								
Neighborhood Park	1/2 mi. radius (one park service area)	5-20 acres	Active informal play	Walk, bike	Entirely owned and maintained by City	e.g. Playground structure, hard surface court	e.g. Open field, trails, natural habitat, picnic shelter	Limited off-street parking (primarily accessible spaces), open air shelter
Mini park	Less than 1/2 mi. radius	1-5 acres	Active informal play	Walk, bike	Entirely owned and maintained by City	e.g. Playground structure, hard surface	e.g. trails, natural habitat, picnic shelter	Limited off-street parking (primarily accessible spaces), open air shelter
School Park	1/2 mi. radius (one park service area)	5-20 acres	Active informal play	Walk, bike	Owned by School, sports fields may be maintained and programmed by City	e.g. Playground structure, hard surface court	e.g. Open field, trails, natural habitat, picnic shelter	Limited off-street parking (primarily accessible spaces), open air shelter
<b>Regional Facilities</b>								
Regional	Hennepin County	As needed	Passive and active recreation, natural resources, programmed events	Bike, walk, car, transit	Entirely owned and maintained by other agency	e.g. Playground structure, sport fields, beach/swimming area, hard surface courts	e.g. Trails, picnicking, fishing, natural habitat	Off-street parking, other as required
<b>Quasi-Public/Private Facilities</b>								
Misc. Facilities (e.g. fitness club, golf course)	Entire City	As needed	Passive and active recreation, programmed events	Bike, walk, car, transit	Entirely owned and maintained by other agency	e.g. Golf, fitness space, hard surface courts, etc.	e.g. Meeting, class and conference rooms & social gathering space	Off-street parking, other as required

\*ACTIVE RECREATION FACILITIES – Typically areas where competitive, and/or organized team activities take place and requires intensive management and maintenance. The active areas typically require specially built facilities (e.g. playgrounds, sports fields, skate parks, court surfaces, swimming facilities, and skating rinks).

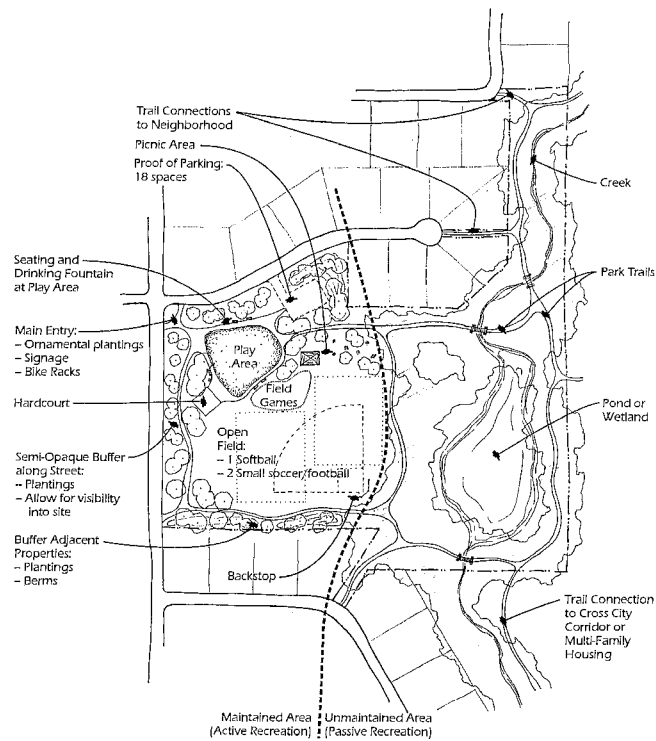
\*PASSIVE RECREATION FACILITIES – Typically low intensity areas that are unstructured and unscheduled facilities that emphasize natural habitat and/or low level of development (e.g. hiking/walking trails, picnic sitting areas, fishing, nature areas and general open space).

# PARK PROTOTYPES

## Neighborhood Park Prototype

**5 – 20 acres**

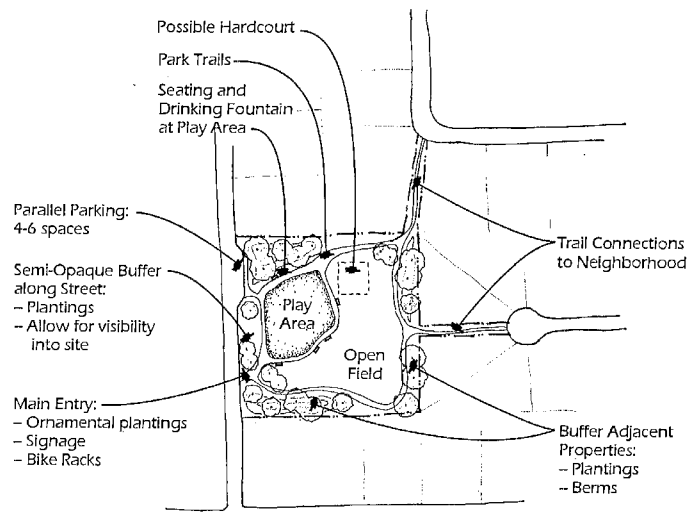
*(Acreage and design will vary according to conditions)*



## Mini-Park Prototype

**1 – 5 acres**

*(Acreage and design will vary according to conditions)*



## COMMUNITY PLAYFIELD/SPORT FACILITIES

The City's playfield/sports facilities accommodate a variety of traditional and non-traditional organized sports. Therefore, flexibility in design of new athletic facilities is crucial to accommodate current needs and to effectively adapt to future needs.

There are essentially five types of facilities that are used for organized sports: ball fields; multi-use fields (soccer, football, lacrosse, cricket and rugby); sand volleyball courts; gyms; and hockey rinks. Each type of facility is described below with actions and/or consideration that will be needed to accommodate future trends.

### Ball Fields

The City will need to pay particular attention to the type and size of any future facilities to ensure flexibility for adequate field needs. The following items will be important to ensuring that these needs continue to be met in the future.

- Flexibility in field design is key in developing new facilities for baseball and softball. These sports pose scheduling and facility development challenges because of varying baseline/pitching mound requirements and the need to provide both grass and dirt infields.
- Scheduling game efficiency is an effective way of maximizing field usage. The City will encourage baseball/softball organizers to devise ways to maximize the number of games that can be scheduled on fields.
- Monitoring participation trends will be important to determining whether the City should consider ball field amenities at the proposed 10<sup>th</sup> playfield site.

### Multi-use Fields

Soccer, football, lacrosse, cricket and rugby participation is on the increase. The traditional programs of soccer and football are now competing with lacrosse, cricket and rugby for the same facilities. It will be important to ensure that proper maintenance and field care are provided so that the fields are able to handle the increased usage. The City will take the following actions to meet future needs:

- Addition of a 10th Playfield will increase both the quantity and quality of facilities that can accommodate the various grass field sports.

## Sand Volleyball Courts

A majority of sand volleyball players prefer unorganized, impromptu games. In recent years, the City has seen steady use of these facilities. The City will monitor use and develop new sand volleyball courts if demand requires it.

## Gymnasiums

The City has built four City/school courts (two each at Wayzata and Armstrong high schools) and a field house facility at Plymouth Creek Center. These facilities do not meet the current demand. The City will continue to work with Plymouth's school districts to maximize court time and to monitor the need for indoor court facilities for traditional and new sport programs. The City should also consider additional active programming and/or gymnasium space at the Plymouth Creek Center.

## Hockey/ Skating Rinks

In 2005, the City partnered with the Wayzata Hockey Association and Providence Academy to add a third sheet of ice to the Plymouth Ice Center. The addition of the rink has adequately accommodated the high demand for hockey ice time. The City has seen a reduction in the use of outdoor ice facilities by the community. However, organized hockey program use has been stable. The City will take the following actions to address demonstrated needs:

- Monitor activity levels to track trends in hockey and figure skating.
- Focus on maintaining six outdoor rink locations (Bass Lake, Oakwood, Parkers Lake, Plymouth Creek, Ridgemount and Zachary) and consider adding a facility at Elm Creek Playfield. Continue to maintain these facilities to ensure quality ice and enhanced experiences.

## SPECIAL RECREATION FACILITIES

Special facilities are unique recreational amenities not included in the programming of a typical park and are intended to increase the recreational diversity of Plymouth's park system. These special facilities may be provided as part of an existing park or as a stand-alone facility. Table 7A-4 identifies existing special facilities and their providers.

TABLE 7A-4  
EXISTING SPECIAL FACILITIES

Facility Type	Provider
Banquet Hall	City of Plymouth (part of the Plymouth Creek Center)
Bocce Ball Courts	City of Plymouth (Plymouth Creek Park)
Community Gardens	City of Plymouth Millennium Garden (Plymouth Creek Center)
Community Gardens	Hennepin County Workhouse and City of Plymouth
Community Center (PCC)	City of Plymouth
Disc Golf	City of Plymouth (Plymouth Creek Park and Zachary Playfield)
Dog Park	City of Plymouth (Plymouth Dog Park, 4 Paws Dog Park at Plymouth Playfield and Happy Tails Dog Park [Seasonal] at Oakwood Playfield )
Field House	City of Plymouth (Plymouth Creek Center)
Fishing Piers	City of Plymouth (East Medicine Lake, Lake Camelot, Parkers Lake, Three Ponds, Timber Shores and West Medicine Lake Parks)
Greenway (Distance trails)	City of Plymouth (Northwest Greenway)
Historical Interpretation	City of Plymouth, Plymouth Historical Society (Old Town Hall and Parkers Lake Log Cabin)
Ice Arena	City of Plymouth (Plymouth Ice Center)
In-line Hockey	City of Plymouth (Plymouth Creek Playfield)
Performing Arts Venues	City of Plymouth (Hilde Performance Center)
Pickleball Courts (dedicated)	City of Plymouth (Bass Lake Playfield)
Picnic Facilities	Three Rivers Park District (Clifton E. French Regional Park), City of Plymouth (Parkers Lake Park and West Medicine Lake Parks)
Pump Track	City of Plymouth (Plymouth Playfield)
Skate Park	City of Plymouth (Plymouth Creek Playfield)
Sliding Hills	City of Plymouth (Ridgemount Playfield)

Source: City of Plymouth

The City of Plymouth has a variety of special recreation facilities in the community for residents to use and enjoy. Below are details on several of the City’s larger facilities. Other facilities include the Hilde Performance Center, home to Music in Plymouth, the Millennium Garden next to the Plymouth Creek Center, Egan Dog Park and the skate park.

### Plymouth Ice Center

The Plymouth Ice Center, located at 3650 Plymouth Boulevard, opened in June of 1997 with two ice sheets: an Olympic and a professional sheet. In 2004, the facility added a third professional ice sheet with seating for 420 spectators. The expansion also included additional parking, an enlarged and remodeled lobby/concessions area, and additional restrooms, locker rooms, offices and storage. In 2015, the City added approximately 7,000 square feet of dryland training space to be leased to a private vendor. In 2017, the Olympic sheet of ice was converted to a professional size rink along with upgrades to the refrigeration system.

The ice center includes ten locker rooms, one figure skating room with mirrored walls and ballet bars and two officials’ rooms. There are upper and lower level lobbies. Concessions are located upstairs with

vending machines and restrooms on both levels. The facility also includes two meeting rooms: the Center Ice Room (seating for 175) and the Blue Line Room (seating for 39).

The Plymouth Ice Center offers learn-to-skate classes and specialty classes as well as public open skating, parent and tot skating and adult open hockey.

Wayzata and Providence Academy high school hockey teams use the Plymouth Ice Center. The facility is also used by Wayzata Youth Hockey, Armstrong Youth Hockey and many other groups.

#### Plymouth Life Time Fitness Recreation Center

The Plymouth Life Time Recreation Center, located at 3600 Plymouth Boulevard, is a three-way joint venture among the City of Plymouth, Life Time Fitness and the Wayzata School District. The fitness center is attached to the Plymouth Ice Center and is adjacent to Plymouth City Hall. Life Time is a for-profit, private fitness company. The facility offers a broad range of weight and fitness training equipment, aerobic classes, sports programs, youth program areas and indoor and outdoor aquatic facilities. As part of its agreement with Plymouth, Life Time allows Plymouth residents to purchase daily passes for the use of their facility.

#### Plymouth Creek Center and Field House

Plymouth Creek Center is Plymouth's community center and has three main components.

**Activity Center** – Opened in 2000 and expanded in 2004. This facility contains a large ballroom (capacity 350) with windows and decking on two sides overlooking gardens and a park reserve. This 75-foot by 75-foot room, which includes a stage and dance floor, accommodates over 50 wedding receptions and other large social events each year. It can be divided in half, and one side can be further split in half. Next to the ballroom is the Fireside room (capacity 50), which is heavily used for seniors' activities during the day and community use on nights and weekends. There are also three multi-purpose meeting rooms with capacities from 35-70, a Black Box theater (capacity 150), two music rooms and two conference rooms. In 2016, the Alcove room was added to accommodate an additional space that can be used as a dressing room for bridal parties, bridal and baby showers, small meeting room, etc. Countless park and recreation classes, senior programs, corporate meetings, and socials events take place at the activity center. A feasibility study was completed in 2017 for the Plymouth Creek Center to include the potential of a renovation and expansion of the current facility.

**Millennium Garden** – These community gardens, which were completed in 2003, host about 40 wedding ceremonies a year and thousands of daily visitors. Included are fountains, a stage, sound system and a labyrinth. Over the years, site amenities, the fountain and pond restoration have been completed.



**Field House** – Opened in the fall of 1999. It contains a full-size artificial grass field (60 yards by 100 yards) in the center of a one-fifth mile track that is made of the same artificial grass material. The dome was replaced in 2017 and updated with LED lighting and new netting. The track is eight-feet wide and handles over 200 walkers/joggers per day on average. The field, which can be used full size or divided with a net for two half fields, is used for park and recreation classes and leagues. It is also rented to community athletic associations and schools for soccer, lacrosse, football, rugby, softball, baseball and golf. From November through April, the field is covered with a dome that allows the City to use the field about 80 hours per week during those months.

### Potential Special Facilities and/or Amenities

The implementation of special facilities relies heavily on resident desires. A variety of special facilities is possible as described below. Special facilities should be provided by the City only to respond to demonstrated need.

An *environmental park* can meet both education and conservation goals. In addition to preserving and restoring a rare or endangered ecosystem, it provides for the interpretation of that ecosystem and of any restoration efforts taking place. The scale of such a park may range from natural surface trails with interpretive signage to a fully-staffed, year-round interpretive building. An environmental park could be implemented either within an existing park or as a new addition to the park system.

*Golf* is recognized by the City as a sport that is important to many Plymouth residents. The consideration of public golf in the city is important for the following three reasons:

- **Recreational diversity** – The City of Plymouth strives to provide a variety of recreational opportunities to its residents.
- **Provision of green space** – Golf requires large tracts of undeveloped land and, therefore, golf courses provide the opportunity to maintain large areas of the community as green space that would otherwise be developed. However, golf courses need to be designed to ensure compatibility with the City’s natural resource preservation goals. Golf courses should be sited on suitable land of appropriate size to allow for the retention or creation of natural habitats between and around holes. Golf courses should include on-site storm water retention and buffering of wetlands and streams. The use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides should be limited. Native plant materials should be used.
- **Quality of life** – Many Plymouth residents have come to expect the presence of public golf courses in the community and nearby. As Plymouth’s population increases, it will be

important to ensure that this recreational diversity, natural resource preservation and quality of life are continued.

### *Policies Related To Golf Courses*

In order to satisfy the desires of many residents and to maintain the present high level of service, quality of life, recreational diversity and protection and enhancement of natural areas, it is important that Plymouth strive to preserve publicly accessible golf courses in the city. A decision to seek public ownership of any of the existing private golf courses in the city would need to be made following a detailed analysis of the facilities and financing options. In addition to economic considerations, the City would also review physical characteristics, including location, accessibility, topography, soils and water resources.

*Indoor playgrounds* have been successful in the Twin Cities area. They offer the benefits of active and varied play experiences, the safety of a controlled environment and the advantage of accessibility, even during inclement weather. Indoor playgrounds require a large indoor space. They could be developed in conjunction with future City facilities or established in cooperation with a partner.

*Outdoor pools, water parks* are popular in the Twin Cities. The City has four swimming beaches, but does not have a City pool or water park. By adding a pool facility, the City would eliminate the water quality issues that are associated with lake swimming.

*Pump tracks* are becoming more popular in the United States. The City built the first one in Minnesota in 2016. It is a continuous loop that can be ridden using body momentum. The track consists of a series of bumps (rollers) and banked corners (berms) that allow the rider to gain momentum. The City's pump track was designed to cater to a range of abilities.

The operation of *remote control boats, airplanes and drones* is increasing in popularity. This type of facility demands an area free from other disturbances such as swimmers, anglers, power lines or tree cover. There are lakeside parks in Plymouth that could accommodate an area for small remote control boats, and open fields within existing parks that could be designated for use by remote airplane or drone operators.

*Single track* describes a type of mountain biking trail that is approximately the width of the bike. It is often smooth and flowing, but may also feature technical rocky sections, go over tree roots and include berms, banked turns, switch-backs, hills, drops and jumps. Mountain biking has been gaining momentum with more trails being added in the Twin Cities.

*Skate parks* provide a venue for skateboarding and in-line trick skating. Both activities are experiencing an increased level of popularity. The City currently has a heavily used skate park located at Plymouth Creek Playfield. An additional facility should be considered if the sport's popularity remains stable.

*Spray parks* have become a very popular, safe and fun alternative to traditional swimming pools. They provide users with a variety of above ground interactive wet play components such as spraying cannons, water tunnels, ground gushers, and other equipment that envelop the user in refreshing mists and/or gushes of water. Spray parks provide entertaining recreational opportunity for the entire family. A spray park would most likely be constructed within an existing park facility.

### Regional and Quasi-Public/Private Facilities

There are a number of other regional and quasi-public facilities that are available for recreation use on a cooperative, member-based or limited basis. There are many different businesses and facilities within Plymouth that serve a recreational purpose. Some of these include: fitness facilities, dance studios, gymnastic studios, martial art schools, preschools, gun club, community club, banquet and meeting facilities. The following are larger regional or quasi-public/private facilities located in the Plymouth area:

**Golf Courses** – The City of Plymouth is home to two golf courses: Eagle Lake Regional Park (nine-hole Three Rivers Park District facility/public) and Hollydale Golf Course (18-hole private owner/open to the public). In addition, there are over a dozen golf facilities within ten miles of Plymouth including New Hope Village, Rush Creek, Brookview, Shamrock, Orono Public, and Baker National Golf Course.

**Hennepin County Library** – The library is a valuable resource for reference and multi-media materials. The Plymouth Library offers a variety of programs centered on reading for all ages. The library was reconstruction in 2008. It is approximately 30,000 square feet in size and incorporates flexible space for children, teens and adults, expanded collection, computers, environmentally-friendly landscape and other features.

**Three Rivers Park District** – Clifton E. French Regional Park is located in Plymouth. It provides a variety of recreational resources including: boat launch; children's play area; swimming beach; large group picnic sites; naturalist-led activities; and two meeting rooms available for community use. Eagle Lake Regional Park is on the northern boundary between Plymouth and Maple Grove and provides an instructional nine-hole golf course, mini-golf course, boat carry-in access, fishing pier, picnicking, biking, hiking, cross-country skiing, skijoring and snowshoeing.

**Historic Sites** – Plymouth’s Old Town Hall is located at Plymouth Creek Park. It houses the Plymouth Historical Society and is open to the public once a month or by appointment. The Gilfillan Log Cabin replica was dedicated in February of 1998 and is located in Parkers Lake Park.

**Neighboring Parks and Recreation Departments** – The neighboring cities of Maple Grove, Brooklyn Park, New Hope, Golden Valley, St. Louis Park and Minnetonka all have parks and recreation departments. They have a wide variety of facilities and program offerings. Plymouth has participated in a range of collaborative programs with them, from teen program to senior trips to youth and adult athletics.

**Parkers Lake Golf Center** – This facility is owned and operated by the Hennepin County Adult Correctional Facility. The City offers a variety of golf lessons at this facility.

**Plymouth City Hall** – The meeting spaces and public hallways at City Hall have been used for a variety of meetings, classes, and art exhibits.

#### PARK FACILITY SERVICE AREA ANALYSIS

**Park Facilities Service Areas** – Plymouth has been divided into park service areas, each of which should be served by a neighborhood, a school, or one or more mini-parks. Figure 7A-1 shows the service areas/zones that represent a one-half mile walking distance to existing parks.

The planned improvements for each service area range from establishing better connections within neighborhoods, through signage or minor trail connections, to acquisition and development of new parks. Specific improvements are based on how well the area is currently served, the availability of land for parks, trails or greenways, and resident needs. The general types of improvements and the service areas to which they should be applied are summarized in Table 7A-5. Detailed analysis on the proposed neighborhood park location is provided in Appendix 7C.

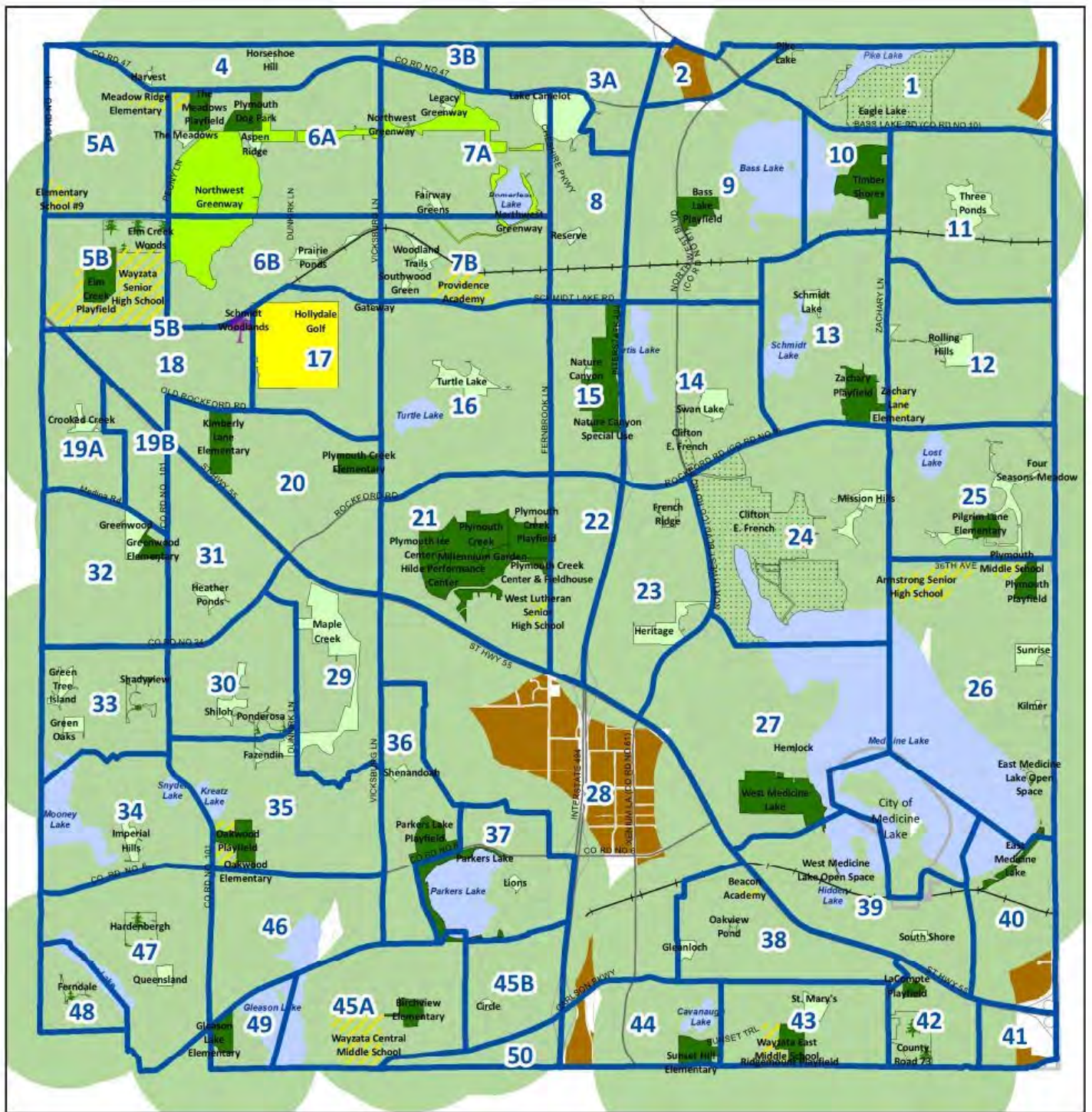


Figure 7A-1

# Park Service Areas

As of December 12, 2018

### Legend

- Citywide Facilities
- Neighborhood Facilities
- Natural Areas & Open Space
- Northwest Greenway
- Regional Park
- School Recreational Facility
- Private Golf Course
- Park Service Area
- Proposed Neighborhood or Mini Park Location
- Half Mile Parks Buffer
- Half Mile of Proposed Parks Buffer
- Industrial/Commercial Zone



THIS REPRESENTS A COMPILATION OF INFORMATION AND DATA FROM CITY, COUNTY, STATE AND OTHER SOURCES THAT HAS NOT BEEN FIELD VERIFIED. INFORMATION SHOULD BE FIELD VERIFIED AND COMPARED WITH ORIGINAL SOURCE DOCUMENTS.

Plymouth has been divided into park service areas, each of which should be served by a neighborhood, a school, or one or more mini parks. Figure 7A-1 in the 2030 Comprehensive Plan shows the service areas/zones that represent a one-half mile walking distance to existing parks.

The planned improvements for each area range from establishing better connections within neighborhoods, through signage or minor trail connections, to acquisition and development of new parks. Specific improvements are based on how well the area is currently serviced, the availability of land for parks, trails or greenways, and resident needs. The table below provides general types of improvements and the services areas to which they should be applied.

PARK SERVICE AREA	DEVELOPMENT/RENOVATION OF EXISTING FACILITIES	ACQUISITION & DEVELOPMENT	TRAILS & ROADWAY CROSSING
<b>#1 Eagle Lake Regional Park</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider development of mini neighborhood park (Hemlock Ln &amp; 61<sup>st</sup> Ave. – PID 02-118-22-21-0041 &amp; 02-118-22-21-0086 )</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide roadside trail along Bass Lake Road from Nathan Lane to the 169 interchange - access into New Hope</li> </ul>
<b>#2 Bass Creek</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If Prudential develops, explore possibility of mini park or negotiate for park on corporate grounds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide roadside trails along both sides of County Road 47</li> <li>Improve trail access under I-494</li> <li>Provide roadside trails along west side of Northwest Boulevard</li> </ul>
<b>#3a Lake Camelot</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider parking lot expansion</li> <li>Shelter renovation</li> <li>Consider removal of south boardwalk versus replacement</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide roadside trails along both sides of County Road 47</li> <li>North boardwalk improvements</li> <li>Remove south boardwalk and place trail on land</li> </ul>
<b>#3b</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide roadside trails along both sides of County Road 47</li> </ul>
<b>#4</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acquire/develop (2) mini parks north of County Road 47 – one east of Peony Lane and one west of Peony Lane</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide roadside trails along both sides of County Road 47</li> <li>Provide trail access to Plymouth Dog Park</li> </ul>
<b>#5a</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide roadside trails along both sides of County Road 47</li> <li>Provide roadside trail along Troy Lane</li> </ul>

<p><b>#5b Elm Creek Playfield</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Consider artificial turf installation</li> <li>▪ Consider park enhancements to better serve future neighborhood to west</li> <li>▪ Consider nature trail development in Big Woods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If possible, acquire additional land to preserve Big Woods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide trail connections from Creekside Hills to playfield</li> <li>▪ Provide roadside trail along Troy Lane</li> <li>▪ Provide east/west roadside trail connection into Medina near 55<sup>th</sup> and Troy Lane to County Road 101 and Sioux Drive grade separated crossing</li> </ul>
<p><b>#6a Aspen Hollow Northwest Greenway Plymouth Dog Park The Meadows</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Renovate Dog Park play features</li> <li>▪ If necessary, fence Dog Park borders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop “The Meadows” site with neighborhood and city park amenities</li> <li>▪ Build Northwest Greenway System and trailheads</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Renovate Dog Park boardwalk/bridges</li> <li>▪ If possible provide safe trail crossing of Peony Lane from Northwest Greenway to The Meadows</li> </ul>
<p><b>#6b Prairie Ponds</b></p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide trail access under Vicksburg Lane and along railroad tracks with connections to Fairway Greens and Woodland Trails</li> </ul>
<p><b>#7a Fairway Greens, Legacy Greenway and Northwest Greenway</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Acquire land along Juneau Lane needed for NWG trail connection</li> <li>▪ Build Northwest Greenway System and trailhead at Lake Pomerleau</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop trail around Lake Pomerleau and connect to Northwest Greenway</li> </ul>
<p><b>#7b Woodland Trails and Southward Green</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Address ADA accessibility issues</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide trail railroad crossing from Woodland Trails to access Fairway Greens</li> <li>▪ Provide trail connection between Woodland Trails and Turtle Lake Parks across Schmidt Lake Road</li> </ul>
<p><b>#8 Reserve</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Address ADA accessibility issues</li> </ul>		
<p><b>#9 Bass Lake Playfield</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Renovation of Bass Lake building – ADA modifications</li> </ul>		
<p><b>#10 Timber Shores</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Shelter renovation</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Consider boardwalk/fishing pier improvements or provide structured boardwalk</li> </ul>
<p><b>#11 Three Ponds</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Shelter renovation</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide roadside trail along Bass Lake Road from Nathan Lane to 169 interchange - access into New Hope</li> <li>▪ Provide trail railroad crossing to access Three Ponds</li> <li>▪ Complete trail connection to Three Ponds on Union Terrace</li> </ul>
<p><b>#12 Rolling Hills</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ADA modifications</li> </ul>		
<p><b>#13 Schmidt Lake/Zachary Playfield</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Zachary – ADA modifications to site and buildings</li> <li>▪ Zachary -Parking lot enhancements</li> <li>▪ Zachary – consider</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide roadside trail (east side) along Zachary Lane from about 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Schmidt Lake Road</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>park building renovation</li> <li>▪ Schmidt Lake –ADA fishing pier renovation</li> </ul>		
<b>#14 Swan Lake</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Address ADA accessibility issues (e.g. picnic shelter, routes from parking lot and courts)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improve crossing of Northwest Boulevard and Rockford Road</li> <li>▪ Rockford Road trail connection (north side) to regional trail</li> <li>▪ Provide trail connection on west side of Northwest Boulevard from Rockford Road to 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue</li> </ul>
<b>#15 Nature Canyon</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop Nature Canyon Park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider a long-term lease with Aero Systems Engineering to expand park area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improve existing connection across Fernbrook Lane to Turtle Lake Park</li> </ul>
<b>#16 Turtle Lake</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide trail connection on east side of Old Rockford Road to Vicksburg Lane</li> </ul>
<b>#17 Gateway</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If Hollydale Golf Course redevelops, a park is needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide trail railroad crossing to access on Holly Lane</li> <li>▪ Provide trail extension along west side of Holly Lane</li> </ul>
<b>#18</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If Hollydale Golf Course redevelops, a park is needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide trail railroad crossing to access on Holly Lane</li> <li>▪ Provide trail extension along west side of Holly Lane</li> </ul>
<b>#19a Crooked Creek</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Complete development of neighborhood park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Acquire additional land to complete park</li> <li>▪ If possible acquire easement or property to provide a trail connection between new park and Urbandale Court</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improve connections to Hamel Legion Park in Medina</li> <li>▪ Provide trail on east side of Brockton Lane</li> <li>▪ Provide trail on Hamel Road from Brockton Lane to Peony Lane/County Road 101</li> <li>▪ Provide trail on Medina Road (south side) from Brockton Lane to Greenwood school</li> <li>▪ Improve trail crossing of Medina Road and Brockton Lane</li> </ul>
<b>#19b</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If possible acquire easement or property to provide a trail connection between new park and Urbandale Court</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide trail on Hamel Road from Brockton Lane to Peony Lane/County Road 101</li> </ul>
<b>#20 Plymouth Creek Elem/Kimberly Lane Elem.</b>			
<b>#21</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Renovation or</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Consider</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improve crossing of Fernbrook Lane to</li> </ul>



<p><b>Plymouth Creek</b></p>	<p>replacement of park building – ADA modifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Consider parking lot expansion</li> <li>▪ Renovation of disc golf facility</li> <li>▪ Renovation and expansion of PCC</li> <li>▪ Fieldhouse retaining wall maintenance &amp; repair</li> <li>▪ Fieldhouse turf replacement</li> </ul>	<p>purchasing parcel 3535 Fernbrook Lane that is surrounded by park</p>	<p>Plymouth Creek Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide trail on east side of Fernbrook Lane from Rockford Road to Highway 55</li> <li>▪ If possible provide trail connection/tunnel under I-494 for Plymouth Creek Trail</li> </ul>
<p>#22</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improve crossing of Fernbrook Lane to Plymouth Creek Park</li> <li>▪ Provide trail on east side of Fernbrook Lane from Rockford Road to Highway 55</li> </ul>
<p>#23 <b>Heritage/French Ridge</b></p>			
<p>#24 <b>Mission Hills/French Regional Park</b></p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide trail connection on Old Rockford Road from Larch Lane/41<sup>st</sup> Avenue into French Park</li> <li>▪ Provide trail connection on Old Rockford Road from Evergreen to Zachary Lane</li> </ul>
<p>#25 <b>Four Seasons/Pilgrim Lane</b></p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Consider changing Pilgrim Lane sidewalk into trail</li> <li>▪ Provide trail connection on east side of Zachary Lane from 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Rockford Road</li> </ul>
<p>#26 <b>Plymouth Playfield Sunrise/Kilmer</b></p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide trail connection on 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue from lake to Highway 169</li> </ul>
<p>#27 <b>West Medicine Lake Park</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop year-round building to enhance park experiences</li> <li>▪ Consider parking lot expansion</li> <li>▪ Consider park renovations (e.g. shelters, fishing pier, beach enhancements)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop Plymouth Creek trail from 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue into West Medicine Lake Park</li> </ul>
<p>#28 <b>Industrial</b></p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Extend trail on Xenium Lane(County Road 61) into Minnetonka</li> </ul>
<p>#29 <b>Maple Creek</b></p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Extend trail from park northwest to Dunkirk Lane and east to Vicksburg Lane</li> </ul>

#30 Shiloh			
#31 Heather Ponds			
#32 Greenwood School Park			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide trail on Medina Road (south side) from Brockton Lane to Greenwood school</li> <li>▪ Improve trail crossing of Medina Road and Brockton Lane</li> </ul>
#33 Green Oaks			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide roadside trail and connection on County Road 24 to Medina</li> </ul>
#34 Imperial Hills			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide roadside trail and connection on County Road 6 to Orono</li> </ul>
#35 Oakwood/Fazendin			
#36 Parkers Lake/Shenandoah			
#37 Parkers Lake/Lions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Consider expanding the building and making beach improvements</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide roadside trail on County Road 6 between Vicksburg and Fernbrook Lanes</li> </ul>
#38 Gleanloch/St. Mary's			
#39 South Shore			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide roadside trail and connection on South Shore Drive to the City of Medicine Lake</li> <li>▪ Improve trail connection on Highway 55 frontage road from South Shore Drive to Medicine Lake Drive</li> <li>▪ Provide roadside trail from South Shore Park to Highway 55 frontage road on South Shore Drive</li> <li>▪ Improve/provide trail crossing of Highway 55 at South Shore Drive</li> </ul>
#40 East Medicine Lake Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Consider general park improvements</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide roadside trail and connection on South Shore Drive from City of Medicine Lake to East Medicine Lake Park</li> <li>▪ Provide roadside trail- Nathan Lane from 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue</li> <li>▪ Provide roadside trail on the south side of 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue from Kilmer Lane to Revere Lane</li> </ul>
#41			
#42 LaCompte	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Redevelopment of park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Consider partial acquisition of PID's 36-118-22-32-0006; 0007; 0008 to connect LaCompte with</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide roadside trail on Old County Road 15 (frontage road from Revere Lane/Highway 55 to County Road 73/Sunset Trail and to Highway 55 crossing</li> <li>▪ Provide roadside trail on County Road 73/Sunset Trail from Old County Road 15 to</li> </ul>

		park property	Ridgemount Avenue
#43 St. Mary's/ Ridgemount	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider building improvements to building at Ridgemount (e.g. restrooms)</li> </ul>		
#44 Sunset Hills Elem.			
#45a Birchview Elem.			
#45b Circle			
#46			
#47 Queensland			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide roadside trail and connection on County Road 6 to Orono</li> </ul>
#48 Ferndale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider development of Ferndale property to neighborhood park</li> </ul>		
#49 Gleason Lake School			
#50			

## TRAILS, SIDEWALKS AND ON-ROAD BICYCLE ROUTES

### TRAIL DESIGN

The trail standards that will be used for new construction in Plymouth are described below. Some dimensions may vary in the detailed design phase due to existing conditions, right-of-way width and other factors. Choosing a trail design for a particular corridor or portion of a corridor should be based on several factors:

- **Existing Conditions** – roadway or independent corridor, type of roadway, traffic volumes on roadway, type of natural environment in independent corridor-wetland, woodland, and feasibility of trail construction;
- **Type of Connection** – regional corridor or local connector, transportation, recreation, or both, anticipated travel distance;
- **Use of Corridor** – anticipated traffic volume on trail user types (bikers, walkers, inline skating, equestrians), user skill (highly skilled bike commuters, families with small children); and
- **User Desires.**

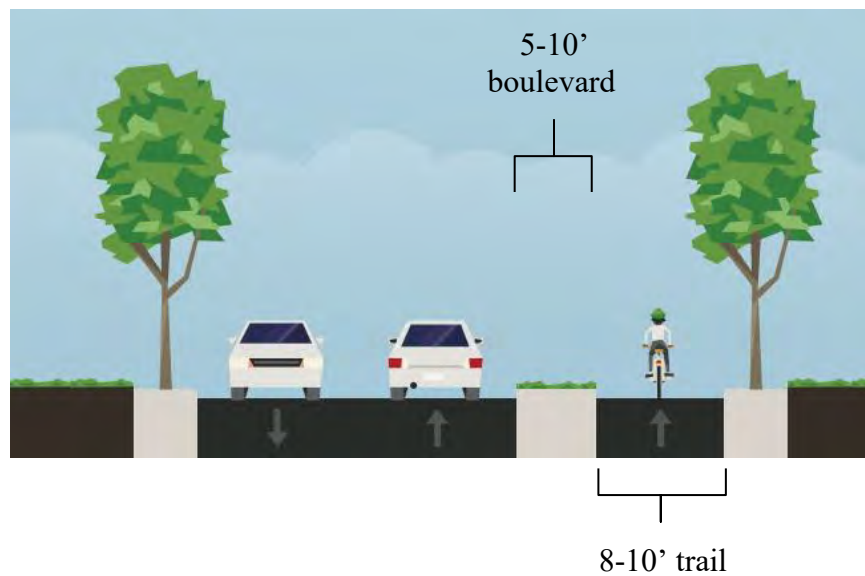
### DESIGN STANDARDS

The design of a trail is directly related to the corridor's use. Each corridor must be analyzed in relation to type of use, skill level of users, purpose and conditions. The following pages depict general design standards for trails (boulevard, multi-use, nature and roadside), sidewalks and on-road bicycle routes.

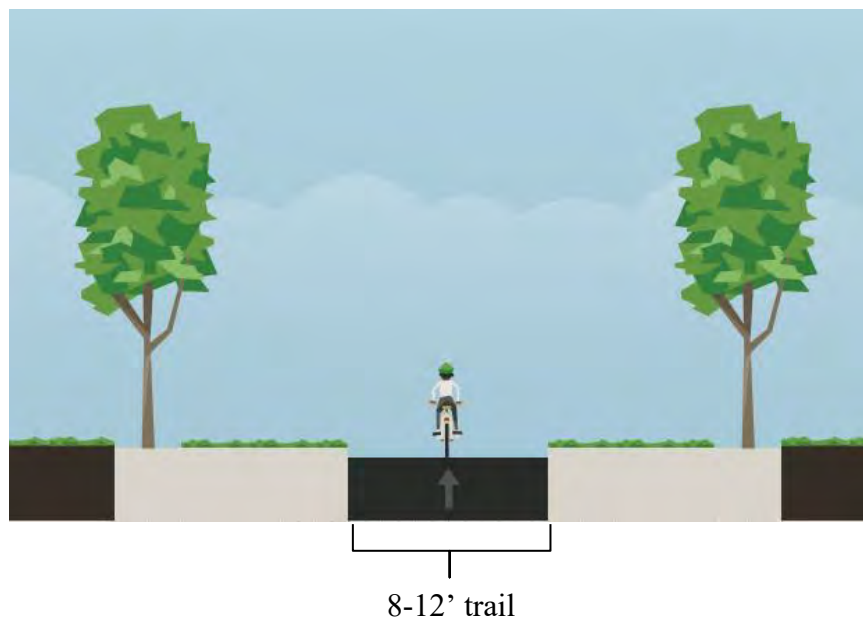
## Trail Design Standards

	Boulevard Trail	Multi-use Trail	Nature Trail	Roadside Trail
Surface	Bituminous or concrete	Bituminous or concrete	Woodchip, crushed limestone, turfgrass or aggregate	Bituminous or concrete
Location	Within road right-of-way, runs parallel to the road with a 5 – 10 foot boulevard	Within existing parks and other non-roadway corridors	Within existing parks or sensitive corridors	Within road right-of-way, runs parallel to the road at the curb line
Width	8 – 10 feet	8 – 12 feet	6 – 10 feet	8 – 10 feet
Use	Recreational use along a roadway	Recreational use within a park or other non-roadway corridors	Interpretive loops within a park or open space	Recreational use along a roadway

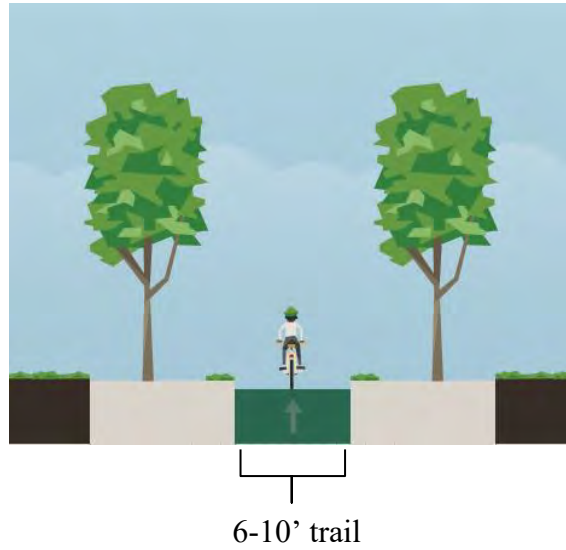
### Boulevard Trail



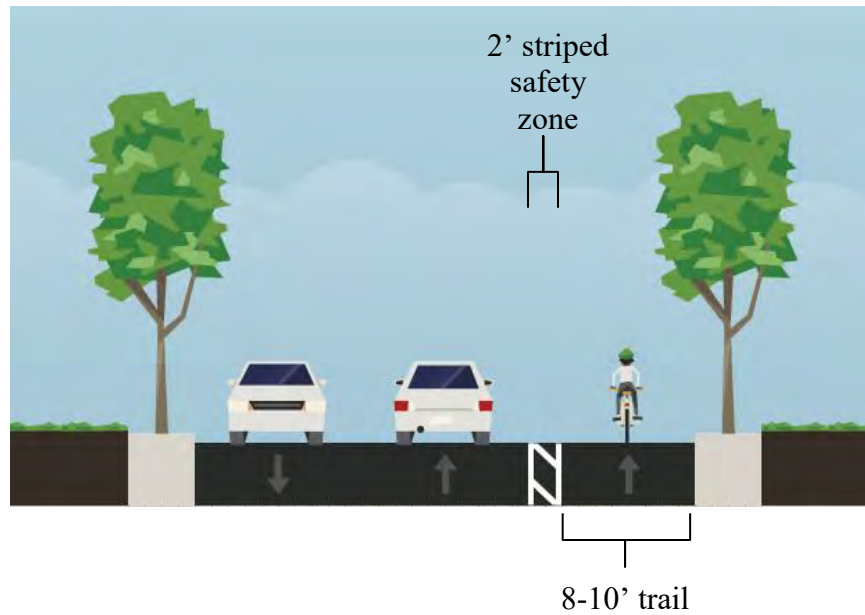
### Multi-use Trail



**Nature Trail**



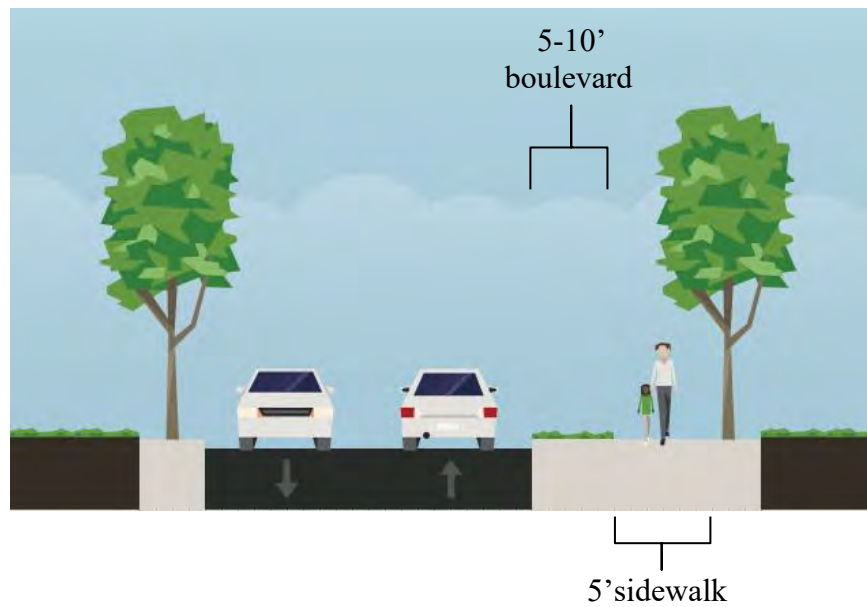
**Roadside Trail**



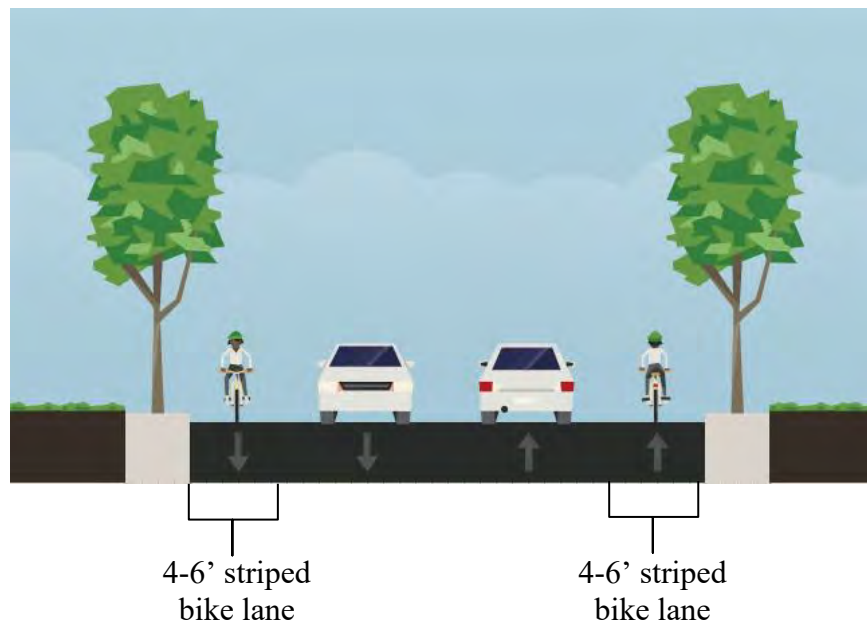
Sidewalk and On-Road Bike Design Standards

	Sidewalk	On-Road Bike
Surface	Concrete	Bituminous
Location	Adjacent to roadway, at back of curb or separated by 5 – 10 foot boulevard	On existing roadway, denoted by signage and striping
Width	5 feet	4 – 6 feet from edge of drive lane to gutter
Use	Pedestrian links along minor roadways	Major roadways with limited right-of-way, county bike routes, non-motorized transportation

## Sidewalk



## On-Road Bike



## NATURAL AREAS AND OPEN SPACE

Plymouth has made a strong commitment to the preservation of natural communities through both acquisition and regulation of unique natural resources. Equipped with an understanding of the existing natural resources within the community and the means of protecting and managing them, Plymouth can ensure that it will continue to benefit from high quality natural areas, clean water, diverse wildlife and plant life and unique recreational opportunities.